Sociology 4A03

Ethnic and Racial Tension

Winter, 2023

**Instructor:** Dr. Vic Satzewich

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**Lecture:** Wednesdays, 11:30-2:20   
**Room:** BSB B138

**Office:** 635 KTH

**Office Hours:** Wednesday, 2:30-3:30

# Course Description

The aim of this course is to introduce students to a variety of public policy problems/dilemmas related to ethnic and racial tensions in Canada. We will also have a session on the current war in Ukraine since that conflict is timely, and is also about ethnic tensions.

I am trying this organizational structure course for the first time. Basically, the bulk of the course will be organized around 6 group presentations. The topic titles for the group presentaitons, which will be explained in more detail in class and in separate handouts, are as follows:

* How should organizations measure racism?
* How should the government of Canada revise its employment equity policy?
* What are the challenges of teaching Critical Race Theory in primary and secondary schools?
* Should the federal government provide and an apology and reparations for slavery?
* How do police forces need to reform to address issues of racism and discrimination?
* What is multicultural policy in Canada today, and is it effective in what it sets out to do?

There will be four students per topic/group. There will also be 4 students on my advisory panel for each presentation. The presenting group will be responsible for outlining the issue to be addressed, and proposing a solution to the problem. Group presentations should be between 20-25 minutes long and contain between 12-15 informative, professional looking slides. Presentations will be followed by advisory panel questions and critiques and then a more open discussion of the issue with the class as a whole.

* Presenting groups must provide links to 3-4 readings related to their topic 5 days before their presentation. I will post them on Avenue. At least one of the readings must be a scholarly article on the topic (i.e. book chapter, refereed journal article). Other readings can be ‘grey’ literature (i.e., credible commentaries and analysis contained in magazine articles, extended newspaper articles, or other on-line material).
* Advisory panel members will be judged on the quality of their questions to the presenting group.
* Advisory panel members will also be required to submit a 2 page reflection piece on the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments of the presenting group.
* The reflection pieces are due on week after

# Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

* Collect and analyze secondary empirical data to support a public policy argument
* Engage in a respectful debate about sensitive and controversial topics related to ethnic and racial tensions
* Make connections between sociological concepts and research with real world events and public policy problems
* Undertake research and critically analyze existing research on a public policy topic
* Develop oral communication skills

# Required Materials and Texts

* There is no textbook for the course. The readings will consist entirely of open source materials available on the WWW.

# Class Format

Class will meet in person on the days and times scheduled. It is NOT a hybrid class, so in person attendance in expected and encouraged.

# Course Evaluation – Overview

Student group presentations—Power Point: 30 marks (due the day of the presentation

Student group oral presentations— 5 marks (due the day of presentation)

Advisory panel questions/performance—5 marks (due the day of presentation)

Advisory panel reflection piece—10 marks (due one week after panel/presentation)

Term paper, on one of the topics NOT presented on: 50 marks (Due midnight, April 19, 2023)

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# Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

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January 11—Introduction to Course

January 18—Explaining the topics for the group presentations

January 25—Everything You Wanted to Know About the War in Ukraine

Vladimir Putin, ‘On the Historical Unity of Russians and Ukrainians’ <https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/On_the_Historical_Unity_of_Russians_and_Ukrainians>

Michael Schwirtz, Maria Varenikova and Rick Gladstone, ‘Putin Calls Ukrainian Statehood a Fiction: History Says Otherwise’ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/21/world/europe/putin-ukraine.html>

Vic Satzewich and Ivan Kozachenko, ‘Why Russia Demonizes Ukrainian Diasporas’ <https://theconversation.com/why-russia-demonizes-ukrainian-diasporas-182372>

Deadline for signing up to group presentations

February 1—Measuring Racism Lecture, 1 hour—Group time (on line class)

‘Using measurement and metrics’, <https://c4disc.pubpub.org/pub/egm3q766/release/1>

February 8—Employment Equity Lecture, 1 hour—Group time

Readings:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/portfolio/labour/programs/employment-equity.html>

The Making of the Abella Report: “Reflections in the thirtieth Anniversary of the Report of the Royal Commission on Equality in Employment”, in *Employment Equity in Canada: The legacy of the Abella Report*, Carol Agos, 2014 (PDF on Avenue to Learn)

February 15—Apologies Lecture, 1 hour—Group time

Reading: *Redress Movements in Canada*, Travis Tomchuk and Jodi Giesbrecht, 2018. <https://cha-shc.ca/_uploads/5c374fce94f80.pdf>

February 22—Break

March 1—Measuring Racism Presentations

March 8—Employment Equity Presentations

March 15—Teaching Critical Race Theory in Schools

March 22—‘Good Question/Bad Question’ Session—talking about term papers

March 29—Reparations for Slavery Presentations

April 5— Policing Reform Presentations

April 12--Multiculturalism presentations

# Course Policies

## Submission of Assignments

## Assignments should be uploaded to the dropbox for this course

## Late Assignments

Late assignments will be punished severely. Specifically, late term papers will receive a 2 mark (out of 50 mark) per 24 hour period they are late. Late reflection pieces will receive a 1 mark (out of 10 mark) reduction for every 24 hour period they are late.

## Absences, Missed Work, Illness

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

## Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

# University Policies

## Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academiccredentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academiccredit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity)**.**

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty

* Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
* Improper collaboration in group work.
* Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

## Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](https://sas.mcmaster.ca/) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca%20) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [*Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities*](http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicAccommodation-StudentsWithDisabilities.pdf)policy.

## Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a [RISO](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2019/02/Academic-Accommodation-for-Religious-Indigenous-and-Spiritual-Observances-Policy-on.pdf) accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

## Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/Code-of-Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities.pdf) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

## Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

## Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

## Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

## Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

## Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

| **MARK** | **GRADE** |
| --- | --- |
| 90-100 | A+ |
| 85-89 | A |
| 80-84 | A- |
| 77-79 | B+ |
| 73-76 | B |
| 70-72 | B- |
| 67-69 | C+ |
| 63-66 | C |
| 60-62 | C- |
| 57-59 | D+ |
| 53-56 | D |
| 50-52 | D- |
| 0-49 | F |