SOCIOLOGY 4A03, Ethnic and Racial Tensions

January-April, 2018

Day and Time of Classes: Thursday, 8:30-11:20
LRW 1056
Office Hours: Tuesday, 12:30-2:00

Instructor: Dr. Vic Satzewich
Office: KTH 631
Tel.: 905-525-9140, x20746
Email: satzewic@mcmaster.ca

Course Description

The aim of this course is to allow students to develop a better understanding of the meaning and significance of racism in Canada. In addition, it will focus on the development of the theoretical, conceptual and methodological tools needed in order to effectively analyze racism. This course is based on an active learning model in which students will be expected to participate in a series of class debates about various theoretical and practical issues related to the understanding and analysis of racism such as racial profiling, redressing historical wrongs, and reasonable accommodation of minorities.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of Sociology 4A03 students should be able to 1) search, gather, review and critically evaluate literature and information; 2) present, describe and discuss research data and interpretation in oral and written format and 3) propose and design a research paper that addresses sociological question. The course will enhance the depth and breadth of students’ knowledge of ethnic and racial tensions, allow students to apply their knowledge, develop an awareness of the limits of knowledge and their autonomy and professional capacity.


Additional readings posted on Avenue to Learn

Evaluation

Participation in three class debates: 45 marks
Verbal Debates: 5 marks each
Debate Position Papers: 10 marks each. Due in class on debate days
All students will participate in debates 1 and 2. Students can choose between debates 3 and 4.

Term Paper: 55 Marks, Due: April 9, 2018.
Topic Outline

January 4: Introduction

Jan 11: Defining Race and Racism, I
Reading: Satzewich and Liodakis, Chapter 1, 2

Jan 18: Defining Race and Racism, II
Satzewich and Liodakis, chapter 7
Audrey Smedley and Brian Smedley, ‘Race as Biology Is Fiction, Racism as a Social Problem is Real’ (Avenue)

Jan 25: Theoretical Perspectives: Class Debate 1
Readings:
Pierre Van Den Berghe, ‘Does Race Matter?’ (Avenue)
Michael Banton, ‘Rational Choice Theories’ (Avenue)
Lawrence Bobo and Cybelle Fox, ‘Race, Racism and Discrimination: Bridging Problems, Methods and Theory in Social Psychological Research’ (Avenue)
John Solomos, ‘Marxism, Racism and Ethnicity’ (Avenue)
Mackenzie King, ‘Royal Commission to Investigate Losses by the Chinese Population of Vancouver, British Columbia, on the Occasion of the Riots in that City in September, 1907’ (Avenue)

Feb. 1: Racism and Canadian History
Readings: Satzewich and Liodakis, chapter 3, 4 and 8.

Video: Stolen from Africville

Feb. 8: Redressing Historical Wrongs: Africville, Class Debate 2

Readings:
Various items at: http://africvillemuseum.org/the-community-of-africville/the-story/
https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/northern-star/033005-2601-e.html
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mike-barber/africville-apology-is-a-s_b_480361.html

Feb 15: New Racisms: Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism
Gada Mahrouse, ‘“Reasonable Accommodation” in Quebec; The Limits of Participation and Dialogue’ (Avenue)
Municipalite Hérouxville, ‘Publication of Standards’ (Avenue)
United States Department of State, ‘Contemporary Global Anti-Semitism: A Report Provided to the United States Congress’ (Avenue)
Chris Allen, ‘The “First” Decade of Islamophobia’ (Avenue)

March 1: Reasonable Accommodation in Quebec: Class Debate 3
Readings: Satzewich and Liodakis, chapter 6

March 8: Racism and Canadian Immigration Policy
Readings: Satzewich and Liodakis, chapter 4
Vic Satzewich, ‘Visa Officers as Gatekeepers of a State’s Borders: The Social Determinants of Discretion in Spousal Sponsorship Cases in Canada’ (Avenue)

March 15: Term paper workshop
Details TBA

March 22: Policing and Racial Profiling: Class Debate 4
Readings:
Vic Satzewich and William Shaffir, ‘Racism versus Professionalism: Claims and Counterclaims About Racial Profiling’ (Avenue)
Frances Henry and Carol Tator ‘Rejoinder’ (Avenue)
Ron Melchers, ‘Inequality Before the Law: The Canadian Experience of “Racial Profiling”’ (Avenue)

March 29: Tackling racism: anti-racism education, employment equity and human rights
Readings: TBA

April 5: What are you going to do with yourself? Graduate school, etc.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and 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 kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.
In this course we will be using a software package designed to reveal plagiarism. Students will be required to submit their work electronically and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Do NOT fax assignments. Please see your instructor for the most appropriate way to submit assignments.

The Sociology staff do NOT date-stamp assignments, nor do they monitor the submission or return of papers.

The McMaster Student Absence Form (http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/) is a self reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report absences that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work. Please note, this tool cannot be used during any final examination period.

You may submit a maximum of 1 Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately regarding the nature of the accommodation.

If you are absent more than 3 days, exceed 1 request per term, or are absent for a reason other than medical, you MUST visit your Associate Dean’s Office (Faculty Office). You may be required to provide supporting documentation.

This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence.

Students should check the web, the white board and the Undergraduate Bulletin board outside the Sociology office (KTH-627) for notices pertaining to Sociology classes or departmental business (e.g. class scheduling information, location of mailboxes and offices, tutorial information, class cancellations, TA job postings, etc.).

Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

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.
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.

Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)
The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student’s religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code. Please review the RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences about how to request accommodation.