

SOCIO 2JJ3 RACE, CLASS, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

Fall, 2018

Class Location: Burke Science Building (BSB) Rm#137

Day and Time of Class: Wed, 9:30-10:30am; Fri, 9:30-11:30am

Instructor: Dr. Jessica Braimoh

Office Location: KTH-643

Office Hours: Fri, 11:30-12:30pm

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Race, class, gender, and sexuality differentially organize people's lives in ways that produce inequality, oppression, and privilege. This course investigates how this happens. To begin, we examine the conceptualization of these concepts from a sociological perspective. In so doing, we move beyond seeing these terms as a way to categorize difference and instead consider how the social construction of these concepts is tied to power. Next we explore the theory of intersectionality as a tool for thinking about the overlapping and interrelated ways that race, class, gender, and sexuality shape people's lives. Then, in order to demonstrate the potential of intersectionality, we investigate how social institutions maintain systems of oppression in society. Specifically we will focus on four cases: education, culture, media, and the criminal justice system. Finally, we conclude with a discussion of the work of individuals, communities, and institutions in transforming systems of inequality based on race, class, gender, and sexuality.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Students in this course will learn about the importance of using an intersectional lens in examining how race, class, gender, and sexuality shape people's lives, and myriad forms of inequality. This focus addresses four University Undergraduate Degree Level expectations (see

<http://ccl.mcmaster.ca/COU/degree/undergraduate.html>): (1) developing a depth and breadth of knowledge, (2) application of knowledge, (3) awareness of limits of knowledge, and (4) communication skills

REQUIRED READING:

- Ore, Tracey E. 2018. *The Social Construction of Difference and Inequality: Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality* (7th edition). **ISBN-10:**0190647965; **ISBN-13:** 9780190647964
- All other assigned readings will be posted on Avenue to Learn and are available through the McMaster library databases.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Item	Date	Value
Attendance & Participation	Ongoing	15%
Mid-Term Exam	Friday Oct 26	30%
Written Assignment	Wednesday Nov 14	25%
Final Exam	TBA	30%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading (ATL = avenue to learn)
Sept 5, 7	Course Introduction	No Readings
Sept 12, 14	Part I: Constructing Differences RACE & ETHNICITY	Ch. 1: Racial Formations Ch. 2: Optional Ethnicities
Sept 19, 21	Part II: Constructing Differences SOCIAL CLASS	ATL_Kanter 2014 – The One Percent Ch. 42: Nickel and Dimed
Sept 26, 28	Part III: Constructing Differences GENDER	Ch. 7: The Social Construction of Gender Ch. 9: Transgender and Intersex Student Athletes
Oct 3, 5	Part IV: Constructing Differences SEXUALITY	Ch. 11: Boys, Boyfriends and Heterosexualised Masculinities Ch. 12: What’s So Cultural about Hookup Culture?
Oct 10, 12	Mid-Term Recess – No Class	
Oct 17, 19	Intersectionality	Ch. 45: Towards a New Vision Ch. 21: Racializing the Glass Escalator
***Oct 24	<i>Mid-Term Review</i>	No Readings
***Oct 26	Mid-Term Exam (in-class)	

Oct 31, Nov 2	Part I: Maintaining Inequalities Through The <i>Education System</i>	Ch. 18: Civilize Them With a Stick Ch. 19: Missing in Interaction
Nov 7, 9	Part II: Maintaining Inequalities Through <i>Language and Culture</i>	Ch. 23: How Racialized Stereotypes of Poor Women's Reproduction Decisions and Relationships Shape Policy Implementation Ch. 31: The Florida State Seminoles
Nov 14, 16	Part III: Maintaining Inequalities Through The <i>Media</i> Note: Term Paper Due @ 11:59pm on <u>Wednesday November 14</u> to dropbox in Avenue to Learn.	Ch. 28: Configurations of Race and Nation in TV Ch. 36: "You May Know Me From Such Roles as Terrorist #4"
Nov 21, 23	Part IV: Maintaining Inequalities Through The <i>Criminal Justice System</i>	ATL_Khenti 2014 – The Canadian War on Drugs Ch. 41: The Transgender Crucible
Nov 28, 30	Resistance and Social Change	Ch. 46: Good for the 'Hood'? Ch. 50: The Next Civil Rights Movement?
***Dec 5	<i>Final Exam Review</i>	No Readings
Dec 7 to 20	Final Exam Period – date will be scheduled by the Registrars Office	

COURSE POLICIES:

Avenue to Learn

This course uses Avenue to Learn to post course material including the syllabus, lecture outlines, additional readings, and assignment instructions. It will also be used as a way to keep you up to date on issues related to the course – for example, class cancellations, office hours, and course reminders. Go to <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca> to log on.

Classroom Management and Equity

This class seeks to create a learning environment that encourages participation, through the inclusion of multiple voices and diverse perspectives. In this class we will explore topics that may be personal or difficult for some people. Please recognize and reflect on how your comments may exclude or demean your others diverse and intersecting identities. **Disrespect will not be accepted in this class**.

Accessibility

The instructor is committed to creating a learning environment that is equitable and accessible so that learning occurs for all students. Every effort will be made to support students in an appropriate and confidential manner. If you require accommodations (instructional, curricular, or test) please approach Student Accessibility Services (<https://sas.mcmaster.ca/>). While every effort will be made to support students, it is the student's responsibility for arranging these accommodations.

Late Submission of Work

The written assignment for this course is due on Wednesday November 14, 2018 at 11:59pm. Additional details will be provided in class and on Avenue to Learn. Late submissions will receive a penalty of **5%/day** *including weekends*. Late submissions will only be accepted until Friday November 23, 2018 (50% deduction).

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 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.

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.

Email Communication

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.