

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF LIBERAL ARTS AND EDUCATION
ANTHROPOLOGY 2910 3(3-0-0), FALL 2009
INTRODUCTION TO RACE RELATIONS

Instructor: Dr. Laurie Nock

Office: C215

Phone: 539-2830 (office), 539-7348 (home)

email: lnock@gprc.ab.ca

Office Hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Drop-ins welcome.

Delivery method: lecture, 45 hours.

Prerequisite: a 3-credit course in a Social Science.

Calendar description: This course examines views on the ideology of racism, which correlates human physical and socio-cultural attributes. The use of racism to organize, define and explain domination and competition is covered along with a comparative study of historical and contemporary forms of race relations in selected societies and at an international level.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course arose in response to a perceived need to alert students of a new generation to the continued vitality of racism, although many Canadians would like to emphasize our historical or geographical distance from it.

We will discuss the biological basis of race, and the relationship between genetic differences and social or cultural characteristics. We will seek to understand the ideological foundations of racism, which are inherent in the need of all peoples to see themselves as the most truly human, if not as "the best". This ethnocentrism need not be a negative force, as differences (physical or cultural) need not be measured against each other. It becomes a negative force when correlated with power differentials, exercised through economic, political or military domination. The combination of ethnocentrism with power makes it possible for those of one culture to exploit others for profit; to define them as inferior, in need of change and improvement (by force if necessary); to legislate their incapacity to manage their own destinies; to deny them access to education, employment and esteem (and thus fulfil the prophecy of inferiority); and, ultimately, to declare them inhuman, unworthy of life, resulting in intentional and unintentional genocide. A mythology of racism emerges to justify and to rationalize inequality, replete with intellectual, sexual and moral caricatures and stereotypes. We will study the complex interplay between identity, inheritance, culture, language, territory and religious and political ideologies. Within a society, racism interacts with other dimensions of inequality (e.g. economic, political and gender), to define privileged social sectors with more clarity. Between nations, racism is both a result and cause of colonialism, migration and under-development. The consequences of oppression and the denial of rights based on racial and ethnic origin have often been political mobilization, inter-group violence, warfare and atrocities.

In this anthropology course, the topic of race relations will be studied cross-culturally, but with frequent reference to Canada. We will study patterns of race and ethnic relations in different societies, including the social and cultural conditions under which tolerance thrives and diversity is valued. Students will understand more clearly why, even if we no longer "believe" in it, racism continues is sustained.

Modifications may be made to this course outline and assignments during the term. As these will be amply discussed in class, students are responsible for keeping informed.

READINGS

It is strongly recommended that you spend some time reviewing the course scrapbook, where you will find many ideas for assignments. It is on reserve in the Library. Other readings will be assigned during the term. Pay attention to Blackboard and to your student e-mail for announcements.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

There are three significant course assignments, each worth 25 percent of the final course grade. They must be handed in to the instructor by 3 p.m. Thursday of the week they are due. One and only one late assignment may be handed on Monday of Week 14. E-mailed assignments are not accepted. All marking of these assignments uses the alpha scale. APA reference style is required.

<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/library/Homepage/Help/LSC/Citation%20guides.html>

You are encouraged to be familiar with these policies on students' rights and responsibilities, and are particularly cautioned to avoid plagiarism. Consult with the instructor whenever necessary.

<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/downloads/documents/CourseOutlinePolicy.pdf>

http://www.gprc.ab.ca/downloads/documents/Grading_Policy.pdf

<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/downloads/documents/StudentRightsandResponsibilities.pdf>

<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/downloads/documents/Student%20Misconduct%20Plagiarism%20and%20Cheating.pdf>

In-class assignments (quizzes, group work, oral responses, etc.) will be timed at the instructor's discretion and will be worth 25 percent of the final course grade. There will be no make-ups for in-class work.

YOU MAY WISH TO KEEP TRACK OF ASSIGNMENTS AND MARKS HERE.

ASSIGNMENT	%	DUE DATE	MARK
Ethnic or race relations in Northern Alberta	25	Thursday, Week 4	
Ethnic or race relations case study	25	Thursday, Week 8	
Topics in ethnic or race relations	25	Thursday, Week 12	
In-class assignments	25	Throughout the term	

In-class marks will be determined approximately as follows:

- 5 points / class attended
- 20 points for “Diversity at GPRC”, week 2
- 20 points for terminology quiz, week 4
- 20 points for class presentation on Case Study assignment, including outline and bibliography
- 20 points for class presentation on Topics assignment, including outline and bibliography
- 30 points for bi-weekly Internet reading. Do your own search or use on-line resources listed in Course Documents on Blackboard. Post a paragraph of commentary on Blackboard’s Discussion Board. If your student ID# is odd, post by Friday of Weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11; if even, weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12.

For this portion of this course ONLY, calculate your mark as a percentage of total marks obtainable. (See scale below.)

Alpha grade	4-point equivalent	Percentage
A+	4.3	80-100
A	4.0	76-79
A-	3.7	73-75
B+	3.3	70-72
B	3.0	67-69
B-	2.7	64-66
C+	2.3	60-63
C	2.0	55-59
C-	1.7	50-54
D+	1.3	45-49
D	1.0	40-44
F	0.0	< 40

IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND REPORTS

DATE	MARK	DATE	MARK
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ASSIGNMENT: ETHNIC AND/OR RACE RELATIONS IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

Value: 25%

Due date: Thursday of Week 4

Length: up to 10 pages, double-spaced (2500 words)

Within your family's history or through interviews with someone else, delve into the minority and/or migrant experience.* Include a discussion of the following.

Circumstances of migration:

Where did they come from?

When?

Why did they leave?

Economic and/or political factors

Why did they come to Canada?

To this region of Canada?

What occupation did they have in their homeland?

What occupations did they take up here?

Social organization:

What family structure did they have?

How did this change in Canada?

What was their community like, at home?

What kind of a community do they live in here?

How has their home community changed?

What contacts have been maintained?

Way of life:

What have been the changes in language?

religion?

everyday life?

diet?

housing?

How were they received by this community?

* These questions and topics can also be addressed from an Aboriginal perspective, in terms of change (before and after). Portions dealing directly with migration can be omitted. Those whose ancestors are of several different origins should focus on just one of these. Hopefully, most if not all of these topics can be covered in conversations with parents or grandparents, but you may need to do some research for supplementary information. There are a number of books in the library on ethnic groups in Canada in the FC 104 range. A great deal shows up on the World Wide Web through a google search, e.g. Italian immigration Canada, Italian emigration Canada. Still another possibility is to interview immigrants or their descendants.

ASSIGNMENT: CASE STUDY: ETHNIC OR RACE RELATIONS

Value: 25%

Due date: Thursday of Week 8

Length: up to 10 pages, double-spaced (2500 words)

Provide a description of a racial or ethnic community and the society of which it forms a part. Consider physical, economic, political, social and ideological factors. Take into account the community itself as well as its position in the wider society. A historical perspective will likely be necessary. Be sure to use vocabulary and concepts appropriate to the topic of ethnic and race relations.

This project must be based on a location as far from Northern Alberta as possible. References must include library research in print materials and databases, supplemented by the Internet, with proper APA references to at least four sources.

<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/library/Homepage/Help/LSC/Citation%20guides.html>

ASSIGNMENT: CASE STUDY: ETHNIC OR RACE RELATIONS

Value: 25%

Due date: Thursday of Week 12

Length: up to 10 pages, double-spaced (2500 words)

When groups in a society are defined as ethnic and/or racial, many cultural practices and articles are used as symbols of their relationship or markers of group membership. Examples include religion, language, diet, music and clothing, but there are countless others; you will find many examples in the AN2910 scrapbook. Do research on one or more of these. References must include library research in print materials and databases, supplemented by the Internet, with proper APA references to at least six sources. <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/library/Homepage/Help/LSC/Citation%20guides.html>