COURSE SUMMARY
This course is designed to provide students with a theoretical and empirical grounding on race and racism. This will be achieved through a comparison of race relations in Canada and the United States. The course is divided into two interrelated sections. The first section will introduce students to key theories and concepts in the study of race relations. Material in the first section will provide students with the necessary foundation to understand and analyze issues discussed in the remainder of the course. Attention will be given to the consequences of race and racism for individual life chances and group stratification.

REQUIRED TEXT
Required readings in this course will be drawn from journal articles (available for download from MyCourses) and book chapters (available in coursepack).

The coursepack can be purchased at the McGill Bookstore.

Note that readings available as eBooks will not be included in the coursepack. These eBooks can be accessed directly via McGill library website.

ASSIGNMENTS, DUE DATES, AND EVALUATION

Movie Discussion (20%; due various dates): This assignment consists of responding to one question per movie. The questions will be posted on MyCourses by the teaching staff. For each movie, students will have a choice of 2 questions from which to respond.

Three movies will be assigned for the course. You will have two options for viewing the movies.

Option 1: During our regular lecture time on Fridays. Movie screenings will start at 2:35 PM, during weeks when we have movies assigned. Locations to be announced (TBA).
Option 2: If you are unable to view the movies during the designated Friday viewings, the videos will be on reserve in the Humanities and Social Sciences library. Students who are unable to watch the movies during the Friday viewings are responsible for watching the movies on their own time.

You must respond to one out of the two questions posted in MyCourses for each movie. **Movie responses should be uploaded to the relevant assignment folder in MyCourses.** Responses should be of a sociological nature and analytical as opposed to just opinions. Your responses should incorporate material from the readings and lectures. In text citations and a bibliography should also be included. The intext citation and bibliography will not count towards the 750 word count.

**Evaluation:** Responses will be graded on a 10-point scale, with 1 being “poor” and 10 being “exceptional.” See MyCourses for the grading rubric for movie responses.

Students are given one week to write and submit their movie responses. For example, the first movie *Reej Injun* will be screened on Friday February 21, 2020. Students must upload their written response on MyCourses in the designated assignment folder by 5 pm on Friday February 28, 2020.

**TRIGGER WARNING:** One of the assigned movies, *American History X*, contains violence and sexually explicit images, including a rape scene. Students who do not wish to view this movie should make a request in writing (via email) to the instructor no later than 3 weeks prior to the scheduled movie screening. The instructor will then arrange for an alternative movie for exempted students. Students are responsible for viewing the alternative movie on their own time. Note that the same due date applies for the movie response regardless of whether it is *American History X* or the alternative movie.

**Conference (35%):** Conferences will be an important and vital component of your learning experience in this course. You will have a total of 4 conferences in which you will engage in small-group discussions and activities.

You will be randomly assigned to groups of 5-6 people. This will constitute your conference “discussion group” for the remainder of the semester. The majority of your discussions in conference will take place in these small groups.

Your conference/participation grade will consist of (i) completion of conference assignments (worth 95% of total conference grade) and (ii) an average of peer evaluations of your contribution to conference discussions (worth 5% of total conference grade).
IMPORTANT: CONFERENCE REFLECTION ESSAYS MUST BE TYPED AND SUBMITTED IN HARD COPY. ALL CONFERENCE ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CONFERENCE HOUR FOR THE WEEK THAT THEY ARE ASSIGNED. STUDENTS WHO EITHER (1) DO NOT ATTEND CONFERENCE AND DO NOT HAVE AN EXCUSED ABSENCE OR (2) MISS MORE THAN THE FIRST 30 MINUTES OF CONFERENCE FORFEIT THE RIGHT TO SUBMIT THEIR CONFERENCE ASSIGNMENTS. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Given the interactive nature of the conferences, it is not possible to “make-up” missed conference assignments or participation. Therefore, if you have scheduling conflicts that would prevent you from regularly attending conferences then you should not take this course. Please also note that only in EXCEPTIONAL cases (i.e., a student’s own medical emergency or a family emergency) will an excused absence from conference be granted. Students must provide documented proof of their situation. An excused absence from conference only excuses the participation component; students must still complete the assignment within a reasonable time (to be discussed and agreed upon between the student and the instructor). Additionally, excused absences must be cleared with the course instructor, not the TAs.

You must sign up for a conference section. An announcement will be made in class regarding when registration for conferences is open. You should only attend the conference section for which you are registered.

**Final Exam (45%)**: The final exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions, worth 2 points apiece.

**Evaluation**: You will be evaluated on your knowledge of key terms, theories, and findings from empirical studies covered in the readings and lectures. Terms, concepts, and facts covered in the movies may also appear on the final exam.

**PLAGIARISM**
McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/) for more information).

**SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK**
In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

**COPYRIGHT MATERIAL**
© Instructor generated course materials (e.g., power point lecture slides, handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.
**REGRADE POLICY**
Students who want a regrade of an assignment must submit a 1-page (double space, 12-point font) *written request* to the instructor no later than 2 weeks from the date the graded assignment is returned to students and/or when the grade is posted on MyCourses. The written request must include a clear justification for the regrade, and if necessary, a point-by-point rebuttal.

**POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS**
A full grade will be deducted for every 24 hours that the assignment is late. For example, if your movie response is submitted anytime between, and inclusive of, 17:01 (on the due date) and 16:49 on the following day, and you earn a B- on the assignment, then your adjusted grade will be C+. 
DETAILED READING LIST

CP = Course pack

**Historical Conceptions of Race & Racism**

January 7
Introduction (no readings).

January 8, 10 & 14:


**Historical and Contemporary Conceptions of Ethnicity**

January 15 & 17:


**Critical Race Theory & Colorblind Racism**

January 21 & 24: *(no class on Jan 22)*


**Prejudice, Stereotypes and Implicit Bias**

January 28 & 29: *(Conference starts this week)*

**Conference #1 (January 31, 2020) (PART A): Unpacking Our Implicit Biases**

Assignment: There are two components to this assignment:

**Part 1.**
- (i) Go to [https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/demo/](https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/demo/)
- (ii) Click on “Project Implicit Social Attitudes”
- (iii) On Preliminary information page, click on “I wish to proceed” (blue text) at the bottom
- (iv) This will bring you to a page with a bunch of IAT tests. For your assignment, choose ONE of the following: Race, Skin-tone, Arab-Muslim, Asian, or Native
- (v) When you finish, print out a copy of your results summary to bring to conference. **You will need to bring your printed results to conference** and submit it along with your reflection essay.

**Part 2.** Write a 750-word reflection essay on your IAT results. Be sure to address (i) whether or not you are surprised by your results and why, (ii) the extent to which the results reflect or do not reflect your “true” attitudes about the target group.

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**Immigration & Demographic Diversity in Canada**

February 4 & 5:

**Multiculturalism & Belonging for Racial/Ethnic Minorities**

February 11 & 12:


**Conference #2 (February 14, 2020): Testing the Limits of Multiculturalism**

**Assignment:** Write a 750-word essay, in which you identify (and describe) a cultural practice from your ethnic group. Be sure to address the following questions in your essay: (1) Why would the practice be problematic or unproblematic if it were practiced in Canadian public spaces? (2) What/whose norms, standards or values are being violated or upheld? (3) What accommodations, if any, are required of Canadian public spaces and institutions in order to allow the practice to occur?

**Indigenous-Settler Relations**
February 18 & 19:


**Movie #1: Reel Injun**
Viewing: 14:30 – 16:30 pm, 02/21/2020
Location: TBA
Response due: 5:00 pm, 02/28/2020

**Reconciliation & Decolonization**
February 25 & 26:


**********STUDY BREAK (March 2 to 6)**********

NO CLASSES
**Nationalism**
March 10 – 11:


**Whiteness & White Privilege**
March 17 & 18:


**Conference #3 (March 20, 2020): Understanding White Privilege**

Assignment: Come up with one form of white privilege NOT identified by McIntosh. Write a 750-word essay explaining (1) why you think your chosen item constitutes white privilege, and (2) how the form of white privilege you have chosen may produce racial inequality, if any.

**Institutional Racism & Racial Profiling**
March 24 & 25:


**Recommended:**

**Movie #2: American History X**
Viewing: 14:30 – 16:30 pm, 03/27/2020
Location: TBA
Responses due: 5 pm, 04/03/2020

**Alternate movie for students who have requested and been granted exemption from watching American History X by instructor.**

**Racial Microaggressions & Racism in Higher Education**
March 31 & April 1:


**Recommended:**


**Conference #4 (April 3, 2020): Racial Microaggressions in Post-Secondary Education**

**Assignment:** Write a 750-word essay answering the two following questions: (1) To what extent are racial microaggressions an issue that needs to be addressed at McGill? Please explain your answer. (2) Are there structural/institutional components to racial microaggressions on university campuses? Or are microaggressions strictly operating at an interpersonal level?
Racialized Emotions & Anti-Racism
April 7, 8 & 14:


Recommended:


**Conference #1 (PART B): Unpacking Our Implicit Biases**

Hard copy due at beginning of lecture on April 14, 2020

Assignment: Now that you’ve had a semester’s worth of exposure to readings and discussions on race/racism and intergroup relations in the US and Canada, I want you to revisit the IAT test that you took at the beginning of the semester. Write a 750-word essay on (i) whether your reaction to your IAT test result has changed from your original reaction at the start of the term; (ii) how implicit biases and stereotypes that you may have about the target group might influence your attitudes towards and interactions with members of the target group.