COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTLINE

Overview and Objectives

This course provides theoretic and methodological tools for the interdisciplinary study of ethnic and race relations; it also illustrates their application to specific institutional sectors of society. The first half of the course reviews basic theory and methods for addressing five key topics: ethnic groups and their demography, ethnic status and racism, ethnic communities and the incorporation of ethnic groups into society, ethnic inequality, and ethnic conflict. The second half of the course explores ethnic and race relations within selected institutional settings, and emphasizes the use of concepts and research from diverse disciplines in understanding theoretical and policy issues arising in each. The specific institutional settings selected for emphasis will be based on student interest and paper topics, and may include: employment relations and the workplace, social and medical service delivery, policing and the administration of justice, and citizenship and immigration policy. The focus will be on comparative ethnic and race relations in Canada and other advanced industrial societies including the United States, Europe, and Australia.

Format of the Course

Class sessions include lecture presentations, discussions based on required readings, and student presentations. Key issues will be identified, and major recent studies reviewed and evaluated. Session topics are listed below, with corresponding required readings. Suggestions for further study are also provided.

Required readings are available at the Library, Short Term Loans department at Robarts, within the Periodical Reading Room. All required readings are also available through the library on line, with url listed in some cases following the entry on the reading list. Updated information is available on the blackboard portal noted above.

Requirements and Evaluation

Evaluation will be in four parts: a brief ‘discipline essay,’ a mid-term take-home exam, a 15-20 page paper submitted at the end of the term, and participation in the seminar throughout the term. (1) The discipline essay, roughly 3-5 pages, will describe a particular study of ethnic or race relations selected by students as representative of
their own discipline. These essays will be discussed in class (during the first part of the term) from cross-
disciplinary perspectives. (2) The mid-term exam covers the five basic concepts covered in the first six sessions of
the course. (3) The term paper topic may focus either on ethnic relations theory, or on an issue of policy or
professional practice which involves inter-ethnic relations, and should include consideration of the implications of
research from at least two disciplines. A one-page proposal (including statement of topic, main questions, and
preliminary sources) will be submitted for approval by Oct. 26. (4) The presentation on the term paper will be made
in the second half of the term, and will be a progress report on the paper. The presentation is designed to facilitate
progress on the paper. Students should prepare an outline either on Powerpoint slides, or handouts distributed in
class. Scheduling of presentations will be finalized Oct. 26. Those who present early will have less developed
work, and may gain more useful feedback; those who present later will be expected to have more developed work,
with less opportunity to incorporate feedback in the final paper.

Weighting and scheduling of each component of evaluation is as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Assigned</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Discipline essay, 10%</td>
<td>Sept. 14</td>
<td>Oct. 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Mid-term exam, 30%</td>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>Nov. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) 15-20 term paper, 50%</td>
<td>Sept. 14</td>
<td>Proposal due Oct. 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Participation (including term paper presentation), 10%</td>
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<td>Paper due Dec. 11 (Friday after last class)</td>
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d) Participation (including term paper presentation), 10%  

Note: the presentation and participation grade will be composed of components as follows: quantity and quality of
commentary in class 5%; term paper presentation 5%. Lateness penalty: up to 5%.

Session Topics

1. Interdisciplinary Study of Ethnic and Race Relations Sept. 14

Part 1. Basic Concepts and Methods

2. Ethnic Groups and their Demography Sept. 21
3. Ethnic Communities and the Incorporation of Ethnic Groups into Society Sept. 28
4. Ethnic Status and Racism Oct. 4
   (Note: University Closed on Thanksgiving, Oct. 12)
5. Ethnic Inequality Oct. 19
6. Ethnic Conflict Oct. 26
Mid-term exam (take-home) Distributed Oct. 26, due Nov. 2

Part 2. Research on Ethnic Relations in Specific Institutions

7. Readings and Student Presentation TBA Nov. 2
8. Readings and Student Presentation TBA (scheduled 4:30 – 7:30) Nov. 9
9. Readings and Student Presentation TBA (scheduled 4:30 – 7:30) Nov. 16
10. Readings and Student Presentation TBA (session cancelled, made up in previous sessions) Nov. 23
11. Readings and Student Presentation TBA Nov. 30
12. Readings and Student Presentation TBA Dec. 7

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REQUIRED READINGS FOR EACH SESSION

(Suggestions for further study are provided in an appended list.)

1. Uses of the Interdisciplinary Study of Ethnic and Race Relations Sept. 14


Part 1: Basic Concepts and Methods

Notes on readings and class preparation in Part 1

Exemplary publications: In preparation for the ‘discipline essay’ (presented in Part 1 of the course, see above), each student should select one exemplary publication representing the study of ethnicity from the perspective of their own discipline. This publication becomes an additional required reading for the session in which the discipline essay is presented (subject to availability).

Preparation of brief statement on concepts: Each student should select one of the required readings, and prepare in advance of the class a brief statement (one page maximum, to be handed in and returned with comment) identifying the way in which the main concept is presented, and assess the adequacy of the concept for the purpose for which it is used.

2. Ethnic Groups and their Demography Sept. 21


3. Ethnic Communities and the Incorporation of Ethnic Groups into Society Sept. 28


4. Ethnic Status and Racism Oct. 4


5. Ethnic Inequality: Institutions and Treatment within Institutions  
   Oct. 19

http://journals2.scholarportal.info.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/pdf/00084085/v43i003/860_tvmegagoc.xml

http://www.jstor.org/stable/3552211


6. Ethnic Conflict and Ethnic Change  
   Oct. 26


http://www.slate.com/id/2138731/pagenum/all/


Mid-term exam  
   Distributed Oct. 26 Due Nov. 2

Part 2. Research on Ethnic Relations in Specific Institutions

Note on readings and class preparation in Part 2

Background readings for term paper presentations: As preparation for term paper presentations, each presenter will, at least one week prior to the presentation, suggest a publication which will be required reading for the class (availability must be confirmed in advance).

Preparation of brief statement on background reading: Each student should prepare in advance of the class a brief statement based on the background reading (one page maximum, to be handed in and returned with comment) identifying a main concept used in the background reading, the way in which it is presented, and discussing the adequacy for the purposes to which it is used.

7. Readings and Student Presentation TBA  
   Nov. 2

8. Readings and Student Presentation TBA  
   Nov. 9

9. Readings and Student Presentation TBA  
   Nov. 16

10. Readings and Student Presentation TBA  
    Nov. 17

11. Readings and Student Presentation TBA  
    Nov. 23

12. Readings and Student Presentation TBA  
    Dec. 7
1. Interdisciplinary Study of Ethnic and Race Relations  

Selected overviews of ethnic and race relations from disciplinary perspectives, including sociology (Ellis Cashmore, Peter Li, Douglas Massey, Joaquin Arrango, Charles Hirschman, Philip Kasinitz), geography (Graeme Hugo), political science (James Jennings), history (Paul Magocsi), anthropology (Josh DeWind) and economics (Amelie Constant, Klaus Zimmerman):


2. Ethnic Groups and their Demography  

3. Ethnic Communities and the Incorporation of Ethnic Groups into Society


Reitz and Breton, The Illusion of Difference, ch. 3. (The extent of cultural retention, pp. 41-63).


4. Ethnic Status and Racism


5. Ethnic Inequality


William J. Wilson, The Truly Disadvantaged: The Inner City, the Underclass, and Public Policy, 1987.


6. Ethnic Conflict  