

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH/SOCI 3020
WINTER 2026
STUDIES IN RACE AND ETHNICITY

Instructor: Carieta Thomas

Office Hours: Wednesdays at 12:00pm to 1:00pm or by appointment via Zoom

Email: CarietaThomas@cunet.carleton.ca

Brightspace course page link: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/372849>

Pre-requisites & Precluded Courses: Third-year standing

Method of Delivery: In-person on Wednesdays at 8:35am to 11:25am

In this course, you are expected to learn from your texts, your teacher and from one another. This requires striving towards understanding each other but it does not imply striving towards finding agreement. Our class will be racially, religiously, politically, culturally, generationally, and economically diverse. We will be of different gender identifications and sexual orientations and our lived experiences and reactions to the course material will reflect this diversity. Sharing our perspectives and interpretations on the course material will enhance everyone's learning experience and you are encouraged to openly express any disagreements with the authors you will read, with your fellow classmates, or with the Professor in the different participation fora that are available for this course. However, you are expected to conduct yourself in such a way that shows the utmost respect to others who may – or may not – share your views. Derogatory comments and hateful behavior towards others (and their views) will not be tolerated.

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Race and ethnicity are two of the defining and divisive features of society today. This course will provide a sociological understanding of how race and ethnicity shape our identities, experiences, and outcomes. The course will explore the historical, economic, political, and social factors shaping and being shaped by race and ethnicity. It will begin by looking at the key definitions, concepts, and theories of race and ethnicity. Students will then be encouraged to apply these concepts to understand and discuss “new racism” in contemporary society through experiences of race and ethnicity in institutions and everyday practices. The course will look at racism on the

individual, institutional/system, and structural levels. Particular attention will be given to the Canadian context.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand how the social constructs of ethnicity and race shape identities and life experiences
- Apply sociological theoretical concepts to explain real-life experiences with ethnicity and race
- Understand the link between ethnicity/race at the individual and institutional levels
- Critically evaluate the social construction of social practices
- Communicate sociological knowledge in a concise and clear manner in writing and discussions.

READING(S)/TEXTBOOK(S)

Students are not required to purchase textbooks or other learning materials for this course. Required readings will be listed in the course outline under the reading schedule and embedded in Brightspace.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & METHODS OF EVALUATION

Assessment of learning outcomes will take place through a variety of methods. Below are the assessment components, required assignments, and the percent value of each assignment for determining your course grade.

Assessment Component/Assignment	Due Date	Weight
Participation	Ongoing	5%
Structured Reading Response (3 out of 5)	January 16 th at 11:59pm January 30 th at 11:59pm February 13 th at 11:59pm March 20 th at 11:59pm March 27 th at 11:59pm	30% (3 at 10% each)
Midterm Exam	March 4 th at 8:35am	25%
Research Project Topic & Outline	March 13 th at 11:59pm	5%
Final Research Paper	April 8 th at 11:59pm	35%