

**Brescia University College  
University of Western Ontario**

**SOC2143E – 530  
Minority Groups  
Tues 6:30-9:30pm, BR 304**

Instructor: Prof. Georgios Fthenos  
Office: BR 301D  
Phone: TBA  
Office Hours: TBA  
Email: [gfthenos@uwo.ca](mailto:gfthenos@uwo.ca)

### **Course Description**

The analysis of racial, ethnic, political and religious minority groups in terms of their relationship to each other and to society at large. Pluralism, assimilation, competition, conflict, prejudice and discrimination are among the concepts to be studied.

### **Course Overview**

The main aim of this course is to teach the student to think critically and analytically about social inequality as it affects the status and treatment of minority groups in contemporary society. Through the lenses of 'race' and ethnicity, we will explore relations with so-called "minority groups" at individual and structural levels. In addition, we will analyze ideologies and practices such as diversity, pluralism, assimilation, integration, privilege, discrimination, and racism. We will also explore the intersections between 'race' and ethnicity and gender, class, and citizenship.

### **Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

- Understand racialization and ethnicity as socially constructed
- Identify & critically analyze discourses and representations of racialization & ethnicity
- Be conversant with concepts of race, ethnicity & culture, specifically in the Canadian context
- Identify, compare, and critique the values and assumptions underlying different perspectives on multiculturalism and racism
- Identify relevant examples and material from outside the classroom and integrate these with formal course material

**Antirequisite** – the former Sociology 143.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites. If you do not have the requisites for this course, and you do not have written special permission from your Dean to enrol in this course, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.*

### **Required Texts**

Satzewich, Vic and Nikolaos Liodakis 2013. 'Race' and ethnicity in Canada: a critical introduction. 3<sup>rd</sup>

Edition. Oxford University Press.

Allahar, Antón L. and James E. Côté. 1998. Richer & Poorer: the Structure of Inequality in Canada. Toronto: Lorimer.

Supplemental readings available on Sakai.

### **Evaluation**

Annotated Bibliographies (x2)	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Research Paper	25%
Final Exam	30%
Participation	10%

### **Annotated Bibliographies**

Students will be required to examine two peer-reviewed academic journal article readings **critically (carefully) and engage in a serious discussion of its contents**. Choice of articles to be provided on Sakai. Further details to be provided in class.

### **Exams**

The exams are non-cumulative. The midterm and final exam will be made up of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blanks and long answer/essay questions. You will be tested on materials covered in the textbooks, assigned readings and lecture slides. Each exam is scheduled for 3 hours in length.

### **Research Paper**

The research paper in the course will address the topic of minority groups and will explain why a particular group's minority status is of sociological relevance. Your essay will weave together the analytical concepts of 'social inequality,' 'power,' 'ideology' and 'social control.' You will specify a question that you will pursue in the essay (e.g. how are minority groups useful or not useful to a capitalist economy such as Canada's? Or, how does the existence of minority groups support/challenge Canada's claims to being a society of immigrants where all are equal?). Students are expected to give some thought to a theoretical argument or position that they will adopt. Prior to writing the essay, a proposal must be handed in. Further details to be provided in class.

### **Class Participation**

The course will meet for three hours per week and classes will combine lectures and class discussions. Students are expected to attend all classes and play an active role in class discussions.

### **Course Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Sept 10	Introduction	
Sept 17	Minority Groups: Key Terms	S&L 1 A&C 1
Sept 24	Theoretical Foundations: Theories of Ethnicity and 'Race'	S&L 2 A&C 2
Oct 1	Theoretical Foundations: Ethnic Pluralism and Industrialization/Theories of Ethnic Change and Persistence	SR

Oct 8	Historical Perspectives: Class and Race Formation in North America	SR
Oct 15	Historical Perspectives: Racism in Canadian History	S&L 3
Oct 22	Regionalism: The Forgotten Diversity <i>Annotated Bibliography #1 Due</i>	SR
Oct 29	Stratification: Power, Status and Inequalities	S&L 5
Nov 5	Apartheid: Segregation of Minorities	SR
Nov 12	Colonialism and Aboriginal Peoples	S&L 8
Nov 19	Minorities and Religion	SR
Nov 26	Minorities and the Media <i>Research Paper Proposal Due</i>	SR
Dec 3	Midterm Exam Review	
	<b>DECEMBER EXAM – SCHEDULED BY REGISTRAR</b>	
Jan 7	Blacks as Minorities	S&L 7
Jan 14	Women as Minorities: Women's Movement	S&L 4, A&C 4
Jan 21	Youth as Minorities	A&C 5
Jan 28	Immigrants as Minorities: Migration and Immigration	S&L 4, 9
Feb 4	Diversity and Conformity: The Role of Gender <i>Annotated Bibliography #2 Due</i>	
Feb 11	Sexual Diversity in Canada	SR
Feb 18	<b>No Class – Reading Week</b>	
Feb 25	Racism and Paid Work	SR
Mar 4	Race and Crime: The Colour of Justice Racial Profiling: Policing Race in Canada	SR
Mar 11	Victimology: Vulnerable Populations and Victimization	SR
Mar 18	Minorities and Education	SR
Mar 25	Disability as Difference	SR
Apr 1	Multiculturalism, Anti-Racism and Theorizing Resistance Future Possibilities: The Quest for Human Rights	S&L 6, A&C 3
Apr 8	Final Exam Review <i>Research Papers Due</i>	
	<b>FINAL EXAM – SCHEDULED BY REGISTRAR</b>	

## Grade Guidelines

Department of Sociology guidelines require a particular course grade distribution, which may require curving or otherwise adjusting your course grade in order to meet this requirement. As much as possible, your earned course grade will be the grade you receive. **For 2100-level courses, the course mean is to be between a 66-70%, and there are to be more Bs than As.**

## Laptop Policy

**Laptops are generally prohibited in this course.** However, if you believe that your academic performance will be unduly disadvantaged by not being able to use a laptop and can provide a compelling reason for this, please come discuss the matter with me. All students granted leave to use a laptop in class will be required to sit in the last row so as not to distract others.

## Mobile Phone Policy

All phones are to be shut off at the start of class, except if you have a dire emergency that you are having to attend to (such as an immediate family member's illness or hospitalization, or your

spouse's/domestic partner's impending delivery), in which case you need to let me know at the start of class. **Text messaging is absolutely prohibited during class times.**

## Communications

Email is my preferred method of contact. It should be professionally prepared, spell- and grammar-checked, and not written in "text message" format. All communications must be written from your UWO account. The subject heading should read the course title. Sign the email with your full name and student number. Expect a response within 24-48 hours, excluding weekend.

## BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013/pg117.html>

### 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you

should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, [www.registrar.uwo.ca](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca), for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

### 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

### 4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

#### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

## **5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

## **6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

## **7. SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at [http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar\\_services/index.html](http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html) . The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> . Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

---

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate