HISTORY 3265G
Racism in Canadian History

Winter 2023
Mondays, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Somerville House 3355

Course delivery is in-person

Instructor: Professor Keith Fleming
Office hours: Mondays, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Department of History, Office: Lawson Hall 1208
Email: kfleming@uwo.ca

This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.

Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic
The intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, but should the COVID-19 landscape shift, the course will be delivered on-line synchronously (i.e., on Zoom at the times indicated in the timetable). The grading scheme will not change. The course will return to an in-person mode of delivery when the University and local health authorities deem it safe to do so.

Course Description:
A survey of racism in Canadian society from the eighteenth century to the present, including the racist targeting of Canada’s Black, Chinese, Indigenous, Japanese, Jewish, Muslim, and South Asian communities, focusing specifically on institutional racism. Governmental and citizen-based anti-racism initiatives are also studied.

Prerequisite:
1.0 History course at the 2200 level or above

Antirequisite: [none]

Course Syllabus:
This seminar course is an introduction to the history of racism in Canada. Although popular sentiment within Canada long maintained that it was a country largely devoid of racial prejudice and systemic discrimination, particularly in comparison to its American neighbour, an abundance of historical evidence demonstrates otherwise. Through examining the racist targeting of Canada’s Black, Chinese, Indigenous, Japanese, Jewish, Muslim, and South Asian communities, this course documents a legacy of racism in Canadian history reaching back to the eighteenth century. Attention is devoted at the beginning of the course to developing a specific understanding of the prejudicial attitudes and discriminatory practices, institutions and structures that perpetuate inequalities and are properly defined as ‘racist.’ Although racist behaviours occupy a broad continuum – ranging from covert and subtle insinuation to explicit and extreme violence – a primary focus in this course is on recurring examples of institutional racism (for example, restrictive immigration regulations imposed upon particular ethnic groups, or governmental policies constraining Indigenous peoples) that marginalized, excluded, segregated, and dominated racialized minorities in Canada. Much of the history studied in this course is upsetting. We approach this history by following the lead of George M. Fredrickson, a leading scholar in the field, who advised that “the responsibility of the historian … who studies racism is not to moralize and condemn but to
understand this malignancy so that it can be more effectively treated” (from Racism: A Short History, Princeton University Press, 2015, p. 158).

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Students will be able to
- identify major events, concepts, minority groups, and personalities that constitute Canada’s history of racism
- define clearly and apply judiciously to Canada’s history core concepts such as ‘racism,’ ‘racist,’ and ‘racialization’
- interpret information about a wide range of people, groups, events, and documents discussed in the assigned readings and explain their significance
- strengthen skills of oral and written communication
- analyze primary and secondary sources, including their origins, methods, arguments, strengths, limitations, potential implications, and significance for the study of racism in Canadian history
- solve research problems by identifying a topic, refining it to a significant and answerable historical question, determining the essential components of the argument, organizing the parts of the essay, and drawing conclusions
- effectively integrate primary and secondary sources within class presentations, discussions, and research essays
- analyze academically the impact of historical precedents that contextualize present-day racism in Canada

**Course Materials:**
The course readings are available either in digital format at the Western Libraries site for History 3265G (which can be accessed via the ‘Course Readings’ link on the course OWL website), or on two-hour reserve at D.B. Weldon Library. The book for review, George M. Fredrickson, *Racism: A Short History* (Princeton University Press, 2015), is available for purchase through the University Book Store or various on-line retailers and is on two-hour reserve at D.B. Weldon Library.

**Methods of Evaluation:**
Each student will write a **scholarly book review** (7-8 typewritten pages in length) of George M. Fredrickson, *Racism: A Short History* (Princeton University Press, 2015). An electronic copy of the completed book review must be submitted via the course OWL website no later than Friday 27 January 2023 at 11:55 p.m. In addition, the book review must be submitted by the due date and time to Turnitin.com via the course OWL website.


Each student must submit electronically to kfleming@uwo.ca a formal and brief (1-2 page typewritten) **essay proposal** no later than Monday 6 February 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Students who fail to meet this deadline will not be permitted to submit an essay and will receive a grade of “0” on the assignment. Approved essay topics cannot subsequently be changed without the instructor’s prior consent.

Each student will write a **research essay** (13-15 typewritten pages in length). Essay topics will be assigned by the instructor in consultation with each student. An electronic copy of the completed research essay must be submitted via the course OWL website no later than Friday 24 March 2023 at 11:55 p.m. In addition, the essay must be submitted by the due date and time to Turnitin.com via the course OWL website.
Each student, in consultation with the instructor, will make a 15-minute seminar presentation discussing a minimum of three primary sources that the student has identified as providing clarity and context to central themes in that week’s required readings. The types of sources to be consulted could include, but are not limited to, government documents, speeches, newspaper articles, personal diaries, excerpts from novels, advertisements, photographs and other illustrations, or radio and television broadcasts. Presentations must not exceed the maximum 15-minute allotment. An electronic copy of the primary source presentation and accompanying written report must be submitted to kfleming@uwo.ca no later than noon on the day that the class presentation takes place. In addition to including all images of the primary sources being discussed in class, the written report must describe your reasons for selecting those primary sources and how they provide clarity and context to the week’s assigned readings. The written report should be approximately 5 pages in length. The course instructor will post the primary source presentation on the “Resources” section of the History 3265G OWL website for other students in the course to access prior to the presentation being made.

Students will submit each week a written response (maximum 500 words per weekly response) to a question based on the assigned readings for that week. The response questions will be posted on the “Assignments” section of the course OWL website 24 hours before the written response is due. Students will submit their weekly written responses via the course OWL website no later than 6:30 p.m., the beginning of that week’s class. Late submissions will not be accepted or graded. Ten response questions in total will be assigned.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book Review (due Friday January 27th)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Essay Proposal (due Monday February 6th)</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Essay (due Friday March 24th)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Source Presentation and Report</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Written Responses (10 x 2%)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Students must pass all elements of the course (book review; research essay proposal; research essay; primary source presentation and report; seminar participation; weekly written responses) to achieve a passing grade in the course.

A late penalty of 5% for the first day and 2% per day thereafter (weekends included) will be assessed against written work (including the book review; research essay; and primary source presentation report) submitted after the due date.

Students are expected to attend and participate actively in all seminar discussions, thereby demonstrating their comprehension of the assigned readings. Sample discussion questions will be posted on the History 3265G OWL website (under the ‘Resources’ link) before each class to assist students in preparing to participate meaningfully in the seminar. All students will be assigned a participation grade on a 10-point scale following each seminar. Failure to attend a seminar will result in a score of “0” for that class. Merely attending a seminar without participating in the discussion will result in a score of “2” for that class. The assignment of a participation grade from “3” to “10” will be determined by the quality of the student’s contributions to discussion during any given seminar.

In instances when absence from class is unavoidable, students are expected, when possible, to inform the instructor in advance of their pending absence.
Non-illness absences from seminars are unacceptable. Any student attending fewer than nine of the twelve scheduled discussion seminars (an absence rate of approximately 25%) for non-illness reasons will be assigned a failing grade for seminar participation and a failing grade in the course.

Course Schedule and Readings:

[NOTE: WEEKLY REQUIRED READINGS OF APPROXIMATELY 75 PAGES PER WEEK WILL BE SELECTED FROM THE LISTS BELOW.]

Session One: Monday 9 January 2023
Introduction to History 3265G
Topic: Defining Racism and Racialization

Session Two: Monday 16 January 2023
Topic: Racism in Canadian History: An Overview

Readings:


Session Three: Monday 23 January 2023
Topic: Anti-Indigenous Racism (Part I)

Readings:


Robin Brownlie, A Fatherly Eye: Indian Agents, Government Power, and Aboriginal Resistance in Ontario, 1918-1939 (University of Toronto Press, 2003), pp. TBD.

Review of Fredrickson, Racism: A Short History due Friday January 27th

Session Four: Monday 30 January 2023
Topic: Anti-Indigenous Racism (Part II)
Readings:


Session Five: Monday 6 February 2023
Topic: Anti-Black Racism (Part I)

Readings:


Michele A. Johnson and Funké Aladejebi, eds., Unsettling the Great White North: Black Canadian History (University of Toronto Press, 2021), pp. TBD.

Research Essay Proposal due Monday February 6th

Session Six: Monday 13 February 2023
**Topic:** Anti-Black Racism (Part II)

**Readings:**


**Session Seven: Monday 27 February 2023**

**Topic:** Antisemitic Racism

**Readings:**


Irving Abella and Harold Troper, "‘The line must be drawn somewhere’: Canada and Jewish Refugees, 1933–1939” in *Canadian Historical Review*, Vol. 60, No. 2, June 1979, pp. 178-209.


**Session Eight: Monday 6 March 2023**
**Topic:** Anti-Japanese Racism

**Readings:**


**Session Nine: Monday 13 March 2023**

**Topic:** Anti-Chinese Racism

**Readings:**


**Session Ten: Monday 20 March 2023**
**Topic: Anti-South Asian Racism**

**Readings:**


*Research Essay due Friday March 24th*

**Session Eleven: Monday 27 March 2023**
**Topic: Anti-Muslim Racism**

**Readings:**


**Session Twelve: Monday 3 April 2023**
**Topic: Governmental Apologies and Anti-Racism Measures**

**Readings:**


Stephen Harper, “Prime Minister Harper Offers Full Apology for the Chinese Head Tax, June 22, 2006”:


Ontario’s Anti-Racism Strategic Plan: https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontarios-anti-racism-strategic-plan

Ontario Anti-racism directorate: https://www.ontario.ca/page/anti-racism-directorate

Ontario Anti-Racism Act, 2017: https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/17a15

Canadian Race Relations Foundation: https://www.crrf-fcrr.ca/en/

Additional Statements:
Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document, https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness