Course Description:
This seminar course is an introduction to the history of racism in Canada. Although popular sentiment long maintained that Canada 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. Aspects of the history studied in this course might be 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).

Prerequisite:
1.0 History course at the 2200 level or above

Course Syllabus:

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:
All course Required Readings are available in digital format at the Western Libraries “Course Readings” site for History 3265F (https://ares.lib.uwo.ca/ares/) which can also be accessed via the “Resources” link of the course site on OWL Brightspace.

Methods of Evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weightage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay Proposal (due Wednesday October 9th)</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Essay (due Friday November 22nd)</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Source Presentation and Report</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Students must pass all elements of the course (research essay proposal; research essay; primary source presentation and report; seminar participation; final examination) to achieve a passing grade in the course.

Each student will submit via the course site on OWL Brightspace (see Assignment link) a research essay proposal (one to two pages in length) outlining the topic, thesis, and main sources to be utilized no later than Wednesday 9 October 2024 at 11:55 p.m. Essays will not be accepted or assigned a grade if they are submitted on a topic other than what was approved by the instructor.

Each student will write a research essay (12-14 typewritten pages in length). Essay topics will be assigned by the instructor in consultation with each student. A detailed description of the essay assignment will be posted on the course site on OWL Brightspace (see Assignment link). An electronic copy of the completed research essay must be submitted via the course site on OWL Brightspace no later than Friday 22 November 2024 at 11:55 p.m. In addition, the essay must be submitted by the due date and time to Turnitin.com via the course site on OWL Brightspace. Any accommodations for this assignment will require supporting documentation.

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 9:00 a.m. 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 course site on OWL Brightspace for other students in the course to access prior to the presentation being made.

A 3-hour final examination, to be held during the December examination period, will cover all course required readings and lecture content. Electronic devices are not allowed during examinations. Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Counselling. Please see https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

A late penalty of 5% for the first day and 2% per day thereafter (weekends included) will be assessed against written work (including the research essay proposal; the 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 Required Readings. This course syllabus also lists numerous Supplementary Readings which students are not required to read but are useful for examining in greater detail the weekly discussion topics. Sample discussion questions based on the Required Readings will be posted on the course site on OWL Brightspace (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:**

**Session One:**
Introduction to History 3265F

**Session Two:**
Topic: Defining Racism and Racialization

**Required Readings:**


**Session Three:**
Topic: Anti-Indigenous Racism (Part I)
Required Readings:


Supplementary Readings:

Session Four:
Topic: Anti-Indigenous Racism (Part II)

Required Readings:


Supplementary Readings:
J.R. Miller, Residential Schools and Reconciliation: Canada Confronts Its History (University of Toronto Press, 2017).

Session Five:
**Topic: Anti-Black Racism (Part I)**

**Required Readings:**


**Supplementary Readings:**


Michele A. Johnson and Funké Aladejebi, eds., *Unsettling the Great White North: Black Canadian History* (University of Toronto Press, 2022).

*Research Essay Proposal due Wednesday October 9th @ 11:55 p.m.*

**Session Six:**
**Topic: Anti-Black Racism (Part II)**

**Required Readings:**


**Supplementary Readings:**


**Session Seven:**
**Topic:** Antisemitic Racism

**Required Readings:**


**Supplementary 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:**
**Topic:** Anti-Chinese Racism

**Required Readings:**


**Supplementary Readings:**


**Session Nine:**
**Topic: Anti-Japanese Racism**

**Required Readings:**


**Supplementary Readings:**


**Session Ten:**
**Topic: Anti-South Asian Racism**

**Required Readings:**

**Supplementary Readings:**

Research Essay due Friday November 22nd @ 11:55 p.m.

Session Eleven:
Topic: Anti-Muslim Racism

Required Readings:


Session Twelve:
Topic: Governmental Apologies and Anti-Racism Measures

Required Readings:


Supplementary Readings:
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:

Communication policies: The best way to contact me is via email (kfleming@uwo.ca). I also will hold office hours in Lawson Hall 1208 on [day and time TBD] when you can stop by to discuss course related matters.

Use of electronic devices: No electronic devices will be allowed during the final examination. No use of audio or video recording devices is permitted in lectures or tutorials.

Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI): The use of generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for activities such as brainstorming and refining your ideas, drafting an outline to organize your thoughts, or checking grammar and style. Any use of such tools should be clearly acknowledged and explained. If in doubt, please ask me for clarification.

Please review the Department of History’s shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.