

# Western University

## Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies

3324G - Contemporary topics in Critical Race Studies

Mondays 1:30 – 4:30 (January – April 2023)

Instructor: Professor Erica S. Lawson

### Course Description:

From black face performances, appropriation of cultural and spiritual practices, and its centrality in economic and other forms of social inequalities, race and racism persists. In this course, we will ask: What is race and its formations? How does it shift and change over time? Why do we remain so deeply invested in race/racism but are afraid to talk about it? And how is race debated and contested in the twenty-first century? We will explore these, and other questions, with sources from across disciplines (e.g., sociology, feminism, anthropology, literature), as well as in popular culture/media, and in liberation and anti-colonial movements. The course does not offer definitive answers about race, but rather explores its historical roots and contemporary manifestations.

### Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, and as a group, we should know:

- How race complicates what it means to be human (or not)
- How people become racialized
- How racism operates and why it's denied (in favour of euphemisms like "colourblindness")
- How racism continues to be challenged on multiple fronts

Through these objectives (and our assignments) we will also:

- Sharpen our critical analytical and presentation skills
- Improve our writing and editing abilities
- Learn how to read theory closely and critically
- Apply theory to an informed assessment of world issues and events

**Evaluation:** (Instructions will be posted)

- Reflection paper: 15%
- Group Project: 30%
- Abstract and Annotated Bibliography: 20%
- Final Essay: 25%
- Attendance and Participation: 10%