

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN STUDIES AND FEMINIST RESEARCH
WINTER 2018

WS 2259G
Reproducing Race:
Race, Reproduction, Parenting, and Families

Tuesdays, 10:30am-1:30pm

HSB-9

Instructor: Dr. Carolyn McLeod
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Office: Lawson Hall 3233
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description:

Race is widely understood to be a social construction. Therefore, we can ask how some social practices help to construct or 'reproduce' race, and how others deconstruct it. This course centres on historical and contemporary practices that concern race and the formation of families, and the having and rearing of children. And it asks how these practices reproduce race, but also how they can deconstruct it, and how well they might align as a result with anti-racist politics. Among specific topics that we will cover are anti-miscegenation laws, race and online dating, eugenics and race, the race selection of gametes acquired for one's reproductive use, race in global commercial contract pregnancy, transracial adoption, and the instilling of racial identities in one's children. The course is interdisciplinary, drawing from disciplines such as women's studies, history, philosophy, and critical race theory. We will also use contemporary media and film.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to,

- Explain how race relates to practices that concern the formation of families, and the having and raising of children
- Reflect on the value of these practices in terms of how well they align with anti-racist politics
- Discuss the social construction of race, understanding how it could be constructed differently
- Appreciate work on race and families that comes from different disciplines: for example, women's studies, philosophy, and critical race studies.

In addition, through their assignments (see below under Course Evaluation), students will develop or hone the following skills:

- Critical analysis and writing (through the online forum, quizzes, and papers)
- Thoughtful engagement with others on controversial topics (through the online forum and class discussion)
- Confident public speaking (through class discussion, which will occur in large and small groups)
- Synthesis and consolidation of significant amounts of material (through the quizzes and papers)

Course Materials:

- Readings, films, etc. available through our course website

Course Website:

All course information, including assignments, will be posted on our OWL site at <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>.

Course Evaluation:

- 1) Participation in an **online forum: 10%**
 - Where students will post questions or comments about our readings, and will have the opportunity to respond to one another
- 2) Participation in **class discussion: 10%**
 - Discussion that will be prompted, in part, by what is happening in our online forum
- 3) **Quizzes (4, each worth 10%): 40%**
 - To take place in class for a maximum of one hour each
- 4) **Two short papers (5-6 pages, each worth 20%): 40%**

More information about assignments will be available on our website and provided in class.

Course Schedule: TBA

Course Policies: TBA