

ANTHROPOLOGY 3393G/9225B
Special Topics: Deviance, Difference and Resistance
Department of Anthropology
Brief Course Outline
Winter 2022

Version date: August 6, 2021

Class day/time: Thursdays, 12:30-2:30 pm, plus 1 hour asynchronous.

Classroom: SSC-3102

Instructor: Pam Block

Office: SSC-3425

Office hours: TBD

Email: pblock@uwo.ca

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Requisites:

Antirequisites: none

Prerequisites: Registration in third or fourth year in any program.

Course Description:

This course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of deviance, difference, and resistance from several distinct and relevant theoretical perspectives from the 19th and 20th centuries. This course traces the development of these concepts in anthropology and the social sciences beginning with 19th and early 20th century theories of degeneration and eugenics as well as scholarship from the same period that countered eugenics. We will use period sources to study 20th century movements to surveil, incarcerate, sterilize, and euthanize specific populations identified as deviant or dangerously different as well as resistance to these practices and theoretical conceptualizations of resistance as articulated in global north and south contexts.

Course Materials:

Articles and chapters will be available on the OWL course site.

Evaluation:

Discussion Participation – 25%

Students will be expected to touch base regularly with the course instructor, during office hours, or by appointment. Students will work with the course instructor to develop an individualized set of supplemental readings. These materials will be selectively shared and discussed with other students and will be incorporated into their essay assignments. It is expected that students will complete written assignments and supplemental readings that are relevant to their certificate requirements or specified area of expertise

(e.g. Migration and Ethnic Relations, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Disability Studies, Occupational Science, Critical Race Studies etc.).

This is a hybrid course and students will be expected to actively engage both in-person and asynchronously. You will post Discussion Questions (DQs) and Weekly Reflections (WR) on the readings. I will be expecting you to share DQs and WRs for the main reading assignments in the OWL discussion Forum, respond to other students' posts and then discuss further in class. Discussion questions should be essay-type questions that don't have a simple yes or no answer. Weekly Reflections can be anything that connects the readings to your particular research interests as well as experiences/evidence out in the world. They might be drawn from literature, film, social media, news articles, blogs or personal experiences.

Discussion Leadership 25%

Students will rotate responsibility for leading a class during the term. Students will choose the that week's readings for the class and lead both in-person and asynchronous discussion.

Essays 50%

Twice, during this course, you will be expected to turn in a paper of 2000 words (up to 2500 words will be accepted). One of these might be submitted in an alternative format (video, graphic narrative, object histories etc.) on a topic of your choosing related to issues related to the readings and class discussions. The first essay is due via on-line submission between February 8-11th (final submission deadline is February 11th 1pm) and the second essay due between March 31-April 3. Final submission deadline for the second essay is via on-line submission at 11:55 pm (just before midnight) April 3rd. Accommodations or extensions to these deadlines may be provided on a case by case basis upon formal request, prior to the final submission deadline, possibly in consultation with students' academic counselors.

Note: Examples of possible essay formats may be to: compare readings or analyze or synthesize the authors' differing approaches. You may write in support or disagreement with the authors, discussing what you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the approaches used in the readings. You are expected to provide evidence for all your assertions using the texts assigned or in supplemental materials. Use your DQs and RWRs to explore possible topics. Essays may be expansions of these.

In the first two weeks of the semester you will develop a supplemental reading list with the help of the course instructor – you will be expected to complete these readings and incorporate them into discussion forum and your two essay assignments.

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](https://www.turnitin.com).