

**Department of Anthropology**  
**ANTHROPOLOGY 2278A-650**  
**Anthropology of Race, Ethnicity, and Identity**  
**BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE**  
**Fall 2025**

*Version Date: June 16, 2025*

Instructor: Dr. Pamela Block (she/her)

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Office Hours: By appointment.

Method of delivery: online.

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: the former Anthropology 2278F/G.

Prerequisites: None.

Please ensure you have the correct requisites by checking [the Academic Calendar](#).

**Course Description:**

What are these categories of race, ethnicity and identity? These hotly contested, constantly shifting, often politicized terms are used to justify structural violence and systematic injustice in Canada and across the globe. This course will introduce students to anthropological conceptions of race and ethnicity and how these have shaped human identity and experiences over the 19th through 21st centuries. Concepts to be discussed include: Eugenics; Degeneration theory; Anthropometry; Scientific Racism; Anti-Eugenics and Anti-Racism; the Culture of Poverty; Critiques of the Culture of Poverty; Regional differences in how race is conceptualized; Colonial/Post-colonial and Decolonizing Perspectives of Race, and; Critical Race Theory.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

**Course Materials:**

Required textbook. [Graves and Goodman 2023 Race Not Racism: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions, University of Columbia Press](#). The [paperback](#) costs CAD\$34 but check for discount codes directly from the publisher. The [e-book](#) is available for free via Western Library.

Students wishing to purchase need to purchase this edition. Older editions will not be sufficient.

Required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on the course site

**Evaluation:**

Grades will be based on the following:

**Basic Contributions** For those wishing a grade between Passing to 80%:

- Two posters each connecting a material culture item from your personal life to content from the course one due at week 5 and the other at week 11. Topics must be pre-approved. 30% x 2
- Weekly Quiz 20%

For those who want grades above 80% or who are in danger of failing and seeking an improved grade:

**Collective Access Contributions** — Do at least two activities such as those described below – each over a 6-week period during the first and second half of the course. Create a journal to document and critically reflect on these experiences (10% x 2)

- Create alternative learning methods (games, puzzles, quizzes etc.) for students to learn, test or deepen their knowledge of each week's content for 6 weeks (different type each week)
- Create a works of visual art with an artist statement or graphic notes for 6 weeks of the course
- Create, moderate, actively participate in a thematic interest group weekly for 6 weeks
- Create a 5-minute podcast or video expanding on a topic taken from one of the week's readings
- Provide 1x1 peer support and feedback to help 6 other students with one of their Poster Assignments
- Have your own idea for a Collective Access Contribution? Check with Dr. Block for approval

~ End ~