

Course Outline for: ANTH 1102 Tracing the Roots of Racism Through Anthropology**A. Course Description:**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #5 - History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
Goal #7A/7B - Human Diversity, Race, Power, and Justice in the United States

Is "race" real? Using anthropological tools, this course explores race as a social construct shaped by history, politics, and culture – and to some extent biology. Through case studies and discussions, we trace the evolution of race and racism, explore identity, and examine systemic discrimination to understand the cultural processes that shape perceived inequalities. We also analyze the dynamics of racial diversity, power, and justice in the United States and globally, addressing structural racism and environmental inequities in human relationships.

B. Date last reviewed/updated: April 2025**C. Outline of Major Content Areas:**

1. The anthropological origins of race and racism including concepts, terms, and the categorization of humans.
2. Other terms that relate to discrimination against various groups of people.
3. Historical anthropological perspectives on race and racism.
4. The biological foundation in the formation of the terms race and racism.
5. Contemporary anthropological perspectives and approaches on race and racism as they continue today.
6. Intersectionality as it relates to terms and concepts such as gender and ethnicity.
7. The role of communication in navigating stratified societies.

D. Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze the evolution of systemic structures that perpetuate inequities, particularly for Black, Indigenous lands and people, and other communities of color, from an anthropological perspective. (Goal 2a, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5b, 7Ab).
2. Examine the anthropological concepts of individual and institutional racism (historical and contemporary) in the United States and globally. (Goal 2a, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5b, 7Ba)
3. Demonstrate communication and relational skills necessary for living effectively in stratified societies, drawing on personal experiences with racism shaped by historical and contemporary practices of institutional exclusion. (Goal 2b, 2c, 2d, 7Ae, 7Bd)
4. Describe the historical development of anthropological perspectives about the complex ways our identities (e.g., race, gender, class, and sexuality) interact and

- shape our experiences, in the United States and globally. (Goal 2b, 2c, 5a, 5b, 7Ad, 7Bc)
5. Examine the historical and contemporary challenges and contributions of individuals and communities that have experienced racism and oppression. (Goal 2b, 2c, 5a, 5b, 7Ad, 7Bc)
 6. Critique how systemic structures (historical and contemporary), that perpetuate differential access to resources, create inequalities among underrepresented groups and play a critical role in shaping people's lived experiences in the United States and abroad. (Goal 2a, 2c, 5b, 5c, 7Ab, 7Ba)

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:

Methods for assessment may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Exams
2. Quizzes
3. Reflection papers
4. Discussion
5. Group work

F. Special Information:

None