

ANTH 483

RACE, RACISM, AND ANTHROPOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. CindyAnn Rose-Redwood

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Anthropology has a long and contradictory history regarding discussions of race and racism. The discipline is well-known for contributing to the notion of “scientific racism” and eugenics, yet it is also the same field that has made contributions to promoting anti-racism in recent years. In this course, students will engage in critical analysis and discussions of the discourses on race and racism within the field of anthropology. We will begin by taking a historical lens to examine how early anthropologists approached the study of race. Next, we will examine the work of anthropologists who have challenged racist viewpoints in the discipline. A key part of the course also involves students learning about contemporary anthropological research and fieldwork involving notions of race and racism by scholars from diverse backgrounds. Most importantly, the aim of the course is for students to learn how they themselves can actively engage in anti-racist thought and practice when it comes to advancing anthropological research and fieldwork practices. This course objectives include the following:

- Guide students to critically engage with anthropological scholarship and scholars writing about race, racism, and the experiences of people characterized as racialized “Others.”
- Provide students with the interpretive and critical thinking skills needed to explain the impact of ideologies of race and racism on people’s everyday lives.
- Assist students in coming up with concrete actions and practices which can help break down structural and institutional racism within the discipline of anthropology.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Understand and explain how race and racism have been discussed within the discipline of anthropology.
- Analyze anthropological scholarship discussing race and racism and its impact on peoples around the world.
- Learn to actively engage in anti-racist practices that can break down and challenge pre-existing notions of race.
- Reflect on one’s own role and responsibility to support anti-racist activism within anthropology.

NOTE: This is an online synchronous seminar course. We will meet via zoom on MWF for discussion sessions through May 15th to June 7th in the summer schedule.