



University
of Victoria

POLI 401/501: Advanced Topics in Political Theory: “Racial Capitalism” (Seminar)

Instructor Fall 2022: Dr. Mara Marin

Course delivery: POLI 401 will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Course description:

This seminar is an advanced course in political theory that introduces you to the literature on racial capitalism. We will examine historical and contemporary analyses of the capitalist processes that produce or reproduce racial divisions. Topics will include the origins of capitalism, the relation between capitalism and feudalism, enclosure of the commons, ongoing primitive accumulation of capital, expropriation, housewifization, international division of labour and the devaluation of black labor.

Prerequisites: Complete 1 of POLI 300A, POLI 300B, POLI 300C, or permission of the department.

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion
- Recognize and articulate the meaning of key concepts in a literature that connects the processes of capitalism with the creation of racial divisions
- Reconstruct the role of these concepts in the theoretical arguments advanced in this literature and evaluate the arguments
- Advance arguments on these topics, in both written and spoken form

Topics may include:

Enclosure of the commons
Ongoing primitive accumulation of capital
Expropriation
Colonization
Housewifization
International division of labour
Slave labour
Devaluation of black labour.

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.