Students will be introduced to the concept of “race” as a social construct that has no biological legitimacy but is one of the most powerful influences on human life. Issues of race continue to inform the ways in which individuals from different social locations experience the world. Although race is biologically irrelevant, its association with fixed biological characteristics that are based on relations of power can be seen in residential segregation, acts of racism and economic inequities for racialized “Others.” Geography always informs the ways in which race is understood and lived, in the everyday and everywhere. Whiteness as a “neutral” and invisible racial standpoint will be explored towards the end of the course. A discussion of whiteness is necessary to provide a mirror image of the ways in which the racialized “Other” is always measured in relation to this social norm.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Identify key concepts related to the construction of race
Examine the process of racialization
Articulate the principals of critical race theoretical and analytical frameworks
Describe the intersectional nature of social identities
Relate the concept of intersectionality to the process of social marginalization
Analyze how relations of power influence social norms, location, positionality, and privilege
Apply a critical race analytic perspective to historical and contemporary sociocultural issues
Consider personal and collective opportunities for social action and racial justice

COURSE TOPICS
The construction of “race”, “common sense” understandings of “race”; racism; racial discourse; race and social systems in Canada; “whiteness”; intersectionality; racial geographies and social locations; multiculturalism; immigration; media and representation.

COURSE READINGS