

**Quebec Studies Program
Faculty of Arts
McGill University
Winter 2017**

QCST 440 / CANS 413

Living in Montréal: Ethnicity and ‘Race’ from the Past to the Present

Schedule: Monday, 1435 – 1723 H

Location: 3438 McTavish Street, Room 100

Prerequisites: QCST 300 or Permission of the Instructor

Debates, at times acrimonious, about reasonable accommodation, the proposed Charter of Values, the *niqab*, the on-going Syrian refugee crisis, and national security have dominated public discourse in Québec for the past decade. To place these deliberations in perspective, this seminar takes a close look at ethnicity and ‘race’ in Montréal from the nineteenth century to contemporary society. QCST 440/CANS 413 considers the city’s multiethnic character, the racialization of cultural communities, and the methodologies that scholars have developed to study ethnicity and ‘race.’ An interdisciplinary approach offers students an opportunity to explore and to understand past and present challenges to and opportunities for *rapprochement* between all residents of Montréal. Therefore, we will examine how various cultural groups formed complex communities (differentiated by class, gender, religious practices, and geographic origin for example), interacted with one another, earned their living, and responded to diverse political regimes. By unpacking the changing discourses around nationalism, we will also explore who was considered Québécois(e) and who was categorized as the “Other”.

Designed to provide a variety of learning opportunities, students will read key publications by academics representing diverse disciplines, tour the Bagg Street Shul, the Madina Mosque, as well as the Holocaust Memorial Museum, go on a walking tour of the old Red Light district, and watch and discuss documentary and feature-length films. Scholars doing cutting-edge research on aspects of ethnicity and ‘race’ will present their findings individually or as round-table panelists; community activists will also address issues around intercultural relations in Montréal. The seminar also offers interested students the opportunity to participate in a community service learning experience placement [Experiential Community Engaged Learning and Research or ExCELR] working closely with a grassroots organization from one of Montréal’s cultural communities and with members of Social Equity and Diversity Education [SEDE] at McGill.

Seminar Objectives

1. You will gain knowledge of key themes in the history of ethnicity and “race,”

in particular, of Montreal's multiethnic character, the racialization of cultural communities, and of the experiences of people, their relationships with each other, and their contestation and resistance to all forms of discrimination.

2. In deconstructing the changing discourses around nationalism, multiculturalism, and pluralism you will comprehend the changing nature of who met the standard of inclusion as Québécois(e) and who was "Othered".

3. You will develop a critical awareness, from an interdisciplinary perspective, of the methodologies that scholars have developed to study ethnicity and "race": how they have constructed arguments, used evidence, interpreted, and represented diversity. Varying and oftentimes contending views and interpretations on various subjects related to ethnicity and "race" are found in most monographs and scholarly articles.

4. You will hone your critical assessment, reading, writing, listening, and oral skills in order to analyse the strength, weaknesses, and validity of the various approaches to ethnicity and "race" that are presented in both primary and secondary sources.

5. You will be able to participate in an Experiential Community Engaged Research and Learning [ExCELR] placement as part of your student evaluation with the agreement of the instructor and a community partner.