

SOP77011 — Theories of Race & Ethnicity

Module Information	
Module Code	SOP77011
Module Title	Theories of Race & Ethnicity
Department	Sociology
Year Group	MPhil in Race Ethnicity and Conflict
Module Personnel	Thembi Lockett
Academic Year	2026–27
Credit Weighting	10 credits
Semester	Michaelmas Term
Contact Hours	One seminar per week

Module Content	
Module Description	This module explores the construction of ‘race’, ethnicity and identity. Students will gain an overview of various approaches to ‘race’ and learn how ‘race’, ethnicity and identity are conceptualised, constituted and interpreted within social, political and economic processes, as well as examining how they intersect with culture, gender, state, and nation. We will look at how ‘race’ is represented and how it is experienced at an individual, national, institutional, and global level, asking the question that W.E.B. du Bois posed, ‘How does it feel to be a problem’? The module discusses the continuing and interlocking aspect of colonial discourse in racialisation, group identification and categorisation, in addition to the logic and practices of racial systems, and how states deal with migration and difference. We will examine issues such as: the concept of ‘race’; the prevalence of anti-Blackness, anti-Semitism, and Islamophobia; the possibility of multiculturalism, and post—‘race’; current debates surrounding minority groups and multiculturalism; as well as decolonial and anti-racist struggles. While we deal with theoretical issues, students are encouraged to apply their learning to contemporary representations of ‘race’ and their own experiences to tease out an understanding of the issues

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	surrounding 'race' and ethnicity, as well as opening up questions about identity in general.
Module Learning Aims	- critically theorise and contextualise 'race', ethnicity and identity by applying a critical sociological lens; - engage in critical thinking about the intersection(s) (if any) between 'race', ethnicity and identity; and - understand the foundational and contemporary debates in relation to the framing of racialised and ethnicised identities.
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module, students will be able to: - distinguish between key concepts of 'race', ethnicity and identity; - theorise the links between 'race', nation and state; - situate contemporary debates within understandings of race, empire and colonialism - understand the intersection between 'race', gender and class; - discuss and critically evaluate notions of post-racism, diversity, anti-racism, and postcolonialism.
Indicative Reading / Resources	Recommended Texts: Davis, A. (1981). <i>Women, Race & Class</i>. New York: Random House. Biko, S. (2002). <i>I write what I like</i>. Chicago: Chicago University Press. Du Bois, W.E.B. (2008). <i>The souls of Black folk</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Fanning, B. Michael, L. (2019). <i>Immigrants as outsiders in the two Irelands</i>. Manchester University Press. Fanon, F. (2021). <i>Black skin, white masks</i>. London: Penguin. Gilroy, P. (1993). <i>The Black Atlantic</i>. Harvard University Press. Hall, S. (2020). Old and new identities, old and new ethnicities. In <i>Theories of race and racism</i>. London: Routledge. Hall, S. (1980). <i>Race, articulation and societies structured in dominance (Papers)</i>. Sociological theories: Race and colonialism. Hill Collins, P. and Solomos, J. (eds). (2010). <i>The SAGE handbook of 'race' and ethnic studies</i>. London: SAGE. Lentin, A. (2020). <i>Why 'race' still matters</i>. Cambridge: Polity Press. Mamdani, M. (2020). <i>Neither settler nor native</i>. Harvard: Harvard University Press.

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	Mbembe, A. (2019). Necropolitics. Translated by Libby Meintjes. Public Culture, 15(1). Mullen, P. Black Unsettlement: Embodied Blackness and Black Studies in the Irish Context. Irish Journal of Sociology, 32(1-2). Solomos, J. (2022). 'Race', Ethnicity and Social Theory: Theorizing the Other. Abingdon: Routledge. Solomos, J. (ed). (2020). Routledge international handbook of contemporary racisms. Abingdon: Routledge.
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Assessment

Assessment Components	Midterm essay 30% End of module essay 70%
Assessment Details	Midterm assignment will consist of a reflective writing essay which is combined with a presentation to form part of final grade. End of module essay - 2500 words

Additional Information

Prerequisites	None
Co-requisites	None
Any other information	