Description: “There is no such thing as race, except when you’re a black man driving a BMW at 2 o’clock in the morning.” (R.H.) In other words, as readily as the concept of race can be deconstructed, it can just as quickly be appropriated as fact, and often with loaded implications. Frequently taken at “face value”, race, ethnicity, and identity are intertwined ideas that figure into our daily lives in ways that are anything but straight-forward. Through the prism of anthropological thought, this course explores how these concepts are conceived, contested, and ultimately, created.

Grade Breakdown: Ethnographic Journal 10%
Quick Responses 20%
Midterm Essay 30%
Final Exam Essay 40%

Ethnographic Journal
The concepts of race, ethnicity, and identity are complicated and always in contention; however, they do not always seem that way. In fact, more often than not, they are treated as matter-of-fact, a given, and both figuratively and literally as “black and white”. Therefore, students in this class will be challenged with keeping a journal of the times that these concepts creep into their lives and to wrestle with them using the analytical tools they will gain throughout this course. Journals will be collected periodically and without prior notification (so make sure you bring your journal to class every time). At each collection, journals will be assessed using a check system which will translate into points (1-3) at the end of the semester. On average, students should work on at least 2 comprehensive journal entries per week to earn a check grade. Students not submitting a journal at the time of collection will earn zero points (unless with an excused absence). All journal entries should be dated. Students will need to purchase a 1 subject, college-ruled, spiral notebook to serve as their journal.

Quick Responses
Following particularly significant themes or topics, students will be given 15 minutes in class to formulate a quick response to either a question or quotation relevant to what is currently being discussed. These exercises will be unannounced and may be given either at the beginning or end of class. Students may use any notes or texts that they have at their disposal. However, these responses should focus more on the main concepts and ideas rather than the application of literature (as opposed to midterm and final exam essays which reflect both). The purpose of these exercises is to assess whether students are keeping up and understanding the main themes and concepts of the class as well as to provide us with an indication of where the class as a whole stands in terms of grasping anthropological thought. There are no make-ups, or late takers, once the responses have been distributed.

Midterm Exam Essay
A take home essay question will be assigned to students half-way through the semester. The total number of words will be 1,000 with a 10% margin of difference accepted above or below the requested count. The paper should be written in 12 pt. font, Times New Roman, with 1 inch margins all around, and 1.5 line
spacing. No electronic copies will be accepted. Essays will be collected at the end of class on the designated day. Any discrepancies in formatting will result in a penalty of half a letter grade. Late papers will result in a whole letter grade penalty per day that the paper is late.

Final Exam Essay
The final exam essay follows the same guidelines as the midterm essay with the exception that the word limit will be increased to 2,000. Hard-copies of essay exams are due by 5pm on December 12th at the Anthropology Department office in Chilton Hall. No late papers will be accepted. Failure to submit a final exam essay will result in a failing grade for the ENTIRE COURSE.

Course Policies
1. Attendance is not supervised in a formal sense. However, keep in mind that journals and quick responses are administered on a random basis and an unexcused absence will result in a zero grade for these assignments. If a student is absent and it is excused then they will receive a no-grade for any missed assignments. There are no make-ups or late submissions for quick responses and journals respectively.
2. Absences will only be excused with a doctor’s note, complete with the date of the missed class, and delivered to me on the first day that the student is able to return to class.
3. Absolutely no cell phone or computer use is permitted in class. Please keep them off (not on vibrate) and out of sight.
4. Please try to be on time to class. Once I begin lecturing, the door will be closed and will remain shut.
5. Please feel welcome to properly email me with any questions, concerns, comments, etc. I love hearing from my students (except when they send one-liners from smart-phones). However, please also understand that I generally answer emails during business hours. That is, do not expect an email response from me on weekends or after 5pm on weekdays.
6. If you have any questions about your grade, or any graded assignments, you must make an appointment to speak with me during office hours. Any requests for re-grading an assignment come with the understanding that the new grade may also be lower than the original grade.
7. Office hours are by appointment and must be scheduled at least 24hrs. in advance.
8. There will be no extensions for either the midterm or final exam essay. Late submissions for the midterm essay come with a full grade deduction per day late. There will be no late submissions accepted for the final essay. Additionally, no electronic submissions will be accepted whatsoever.
9. The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat. Students suspected of any of these will be provided the opportunity for a hearing; a guilty finding will merit an automatic “F” in the course. For information on the University’s policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, http://www.unt.edu/csrr/.
10. The Anthropology Department does not discriminate based on an individual’s disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Our program provides academic adjustments or help to individuals with disabilities, and attempts will be made to meet all certified requirements. Please see me if you have a documented disability so that appropriate arrangements can be made to help you get the most out of this class.

Grading Scale
A= 90-100%
B= 80-89%
C= 70-79%
D= 60-69%
F= <59%
Schedule of Topics and Readings.

8.25(M) Introduction to course. Review of Syllabus. 
http://www.understandingrace.org/

Race
Spotting Race?

8.27(W) AAA Statement on Race: 
http://www.aaanet.org/stmts/racepp.htm

AAA World Census: 
http://www.understandingrace.org/lived/global_census.html


9.1(M) No class. Labor Day.

It’s Black and White...

9.3(W) Peter Wade, “Race, Nation, and Genomics: Biology and Society” (Youtube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKhY-_pVZgA)


ABC’s of Race


Building Blocks: Structural Racism


Racial Tensions


Ethnicity

The “Right” Kind of Race


“We are the Borg...Your culture will adapt to service us. Resistance is futile.”


Whitening


10.15(W) “My Opinion of Oreos: Black People That ‘Act White’.” DaREVOLUTIONARYWitDaTattoos https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHT3Vc_x1A4

10.17(F) Reading Day: Midterm Exam Essay Question Distributed

Coloring


Maggie Ronkin and Helen E. Kam. August 1999.
Identity
The Melting Pot, Tossed Salad, Mixed Bag of Chips?

10.27(M)  MIDTERM EXAM ESSAY DUE IN CLASS


10.31(F)  Movie: Bend It Like Beckham. Directed by Gurinder Chadha.

Reality Check:
Are you for real?


Movie: Brown Is the New Green: George Lopez and the American Dream


Keeping it “Real”


Let’s Get (Virtually?) Real...

11.21(F)  TBD
11.24(M)  TBD
11.26(W)  Reading Day: Final Exam Essay Question Distributed.
11.28(F)  No class. Thanksgiving Break.
12.1(M)   TBD
12.3(W)   LAST CLASS: Discussion and Review
12.5(F)   Office Hours for Final Exam by Appt.
12.12(F)  FINAL EXAM ESSAY DUE BY 5:00pm at Chilton Hall