Race, class and gender are too often defined as immutable and essential categories - "natural," timeless and unchanging. This third year course will challenge these assumptions by examining the social construction of race, class and gender. The mutually re-enforcing character of these relations will be explored by addressing their historical development, as well as how they continue to be reproduced in everyday life. By exploring different theoretical approaches, i.e. liberalism, Marxism, feminism and anti-racism etc., course participants will develop critical skills in analyzing the impact of the social relations of race, class and gender in women’s lives. Assessing the strengths and weaknesses of these theories, course participants will explore the possibilities for the transformation of these interlocking systems of oppression and exploitation.

Lectures and tutorials will be supplemented with films and guest speakers. Course participants will be asked to work on a group Plan of Action to address the divisions of race, class and gender, and how they could be transcended. The Plan could focus on either policy development, public education, or other strategic actions for individuals, or institutions to undertake.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**


A package of Selected articles will be on reserve in the Library

**RECOMMENDED READING:**


Wright, R. *Native Son*, Harper & Row, 1940.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:**

Class Participation 15%
Assessments of 3 selected articles (3 pages each for a total of 9 pages) 30%
Plan of Action (3 pages) 20%
Final Paper (13 pages) 35%

**Prerequisite:** WS 101 or 102 (may be taken concurrently)

**Designated Credit:** Students may apply this course toward upper division credit in Sociology and Anthropology. This course may also be applied toward the certificate in Liberal Arts.