Department of Sociology  
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies  
AP/SOCI 4230 6.0A: Sociology of Cultures and Ethnic Identities

Fall 2014 Coolitude  
Course Director: Andil Gosine, PhD, andil@yorku.ca  
Office VH 2148

Summary: This course examines negotiations about culture, politics and social organization that stem from the shared experience of migration between members of racialized groups and/or ethnic communities. The course draws upon the historical and contemporary experience of one particular ethnic group – Indo-Caribbean descendents of indentures – to understand the social meaning, production and significance of culture and ethnic identity more broadly. We will examine texts by and about Indo-Caribbean peoples and the system of indentureship that brought Indians to the Caribbean, and engage post-colonial theory to explore questions about belonging/exclusion, social justice and the production of culture. Particular attention to how discourses of ‘race’, gender and sexuality are mediated in their production of ethnic identity and nationalism.

Texts: Coolitude by Marina Carter and Khal Torabully; The Politics of Belonging by Nira Yuval-Davis; The Swinging Bridge by Ramabai Espinet; various readings available electronically through York University library, and from the Caribbean Review of Gender Studies.

Grading

Tests (30%)  
Coolitude presentation (5%) and short paper (15%)  

In-class (group) presentation assignments (10% Five of these will be assigned throughout the course; each student gets 2% for participation in each; there is no make up or absence allowed)  

Group presentations (2 x 10% = 20%)  

Final essay on contemporary forms of Indenture in Canada?: you will research and compare contemporary temporary work programs in Canada with the system of Indentureship (20%)
Outline of Readings

I. The Politics of Belonging

September 8 Introductions

September 10 East is East; Yuval-Davis (introduction)

September 15 Yuval-Davis, “The Citizenship Question”

September 17 Yuval-Davis, “The National Question”

September 22 Test no. 1 (15%)

September 24 Yuval-Davis, “The Religious Question”

September 29 Yuval-Davis, “The Cosmopolitan Question”

October 1 Yuval-Davis, “The Caring Question”

October 6 Test No. 2 (15%)

II. Coolitude

October 8 Reinvention of Slavery; Hall, “Negotiating Caribbean Identities”

October 13 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

For your assignment, you are to select three Torabully poems and explain how they characterize the system of indentureship (6-8 pages; 15%); in your presentations, you will read and explain one poem (5%).

October 15 Coolitude Torabully (complete text); poetry presentations, pt. 1

October 20 Torabully poetry presentations, pt. 2; written papers due

October 22 Torabully poetry presentations, pt. 3; written papers due

October 27 Dal Puri Diaspora; Hall, “New Ethnicities”

October 29 NO CLASS (Co-Curricular Day)
III. *Gender, ‘Race’ and Sexuality*


November 3 *The Swinging Bridge*

November 5 Hosein & Outar (CRGS); Gosine (CRGS) groups 1 & 2

November 10 Kabir; Mohammed; Outar; Raghunandan (CRGS); groups 3 & 4

November 12 *Research Day for Major Essay; film option: El Contrato*

November 17 *Coconut, Cane & Cutlass*, with Michelle Mohabeer; Pragg (CRGS); Atluri (*CRGS Volume 2*)

November 19 *Cane* portraits

IV. *Indentureship Now?*

November 24 *Groups 1 & 2*

November 26 –*Writing Day (complete your essays) -*

December 1 *Groups 3 & 4; essays due*

December 3 Review Class
Senate Policy on Academic Honesty

The Policy on Academic Honesty is an affirmation and clarification for members of the University of the general obligation to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. As a clear sense of academic honesty and responsibility is fundamental to good scholarship, the policy recognizes the general responsibility of all faculty members to foster acceptable standards of academic conduct and of the student to be mindful of and abide by such standards.

Academic honesty requires that persons do not falsely claim credit for the ideas, writing or other intellectual property of others, either by presenting such works as their own or through impersonation. Similarly, academic honesty requires that persons do not cheat (attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation), nor attempt or actually alter, suppress, falsify or fabricate any research data or results, official academic record, application or document.

Suspected breaches of academic honesty will be investigated and charges shall be laid if reasonable and probable grounds exist. A student who is charged with a breach of academic honesty shall be presumed innocent until, based upon clear and compelling evidence, a committee determines the student has violated the academic honesty standards of the university. A finding of academic misconduct will lead to the range of penalties described in the guidelines which accompany this policy. In some cases the University regulations on non-academic discipline may apply. A lack of familiarity with the Senate Policy and Guidelines on Academic Honesty on the part of a student does not constitute a defence against their application. Some academic offences constitute offences under the Criminal Code of Canada; a student charged under University regulations may also be subject to criminal charges. Charges may also be laid against York University students for matters which arise at other educational institutions.

2. Senate Guidelines on Academic Honesty

2.1 Summary of Offences Against the Standards of Academic Honesty

The following summary of offences is not exhaustive, nor are the definitions provided for each offence confined to the examples cited.

2.1.1 Cheating is the attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation. Forms of cheating include:

- Obtaining a copy of an examination before it is officially available or learning an examination question before it is officially available;
- Copying another person’s answer to an examination question;
- Consulting an unauthorized source during an examination;
- Obtaining assistance by means of documentary, electronic or other aids which are not approved by the instructor;
• Changing a score or a record of an examination result;
• Submitting the work one has done for one class or project to a second class, or as a second project, without the prior informed consent of the relevant instructors;
• Submitting work prepared in collaboration with another or other member(s) of a class, when collaborative work on a project has not been authorized by the instructor;
• Submitting work prepared in whole or in part by another person and representing that work as one’s own;
• Offering for sale essays or other assignments, in whole or in part, with the expectation that these works will be submitted by a student for appraisal;
• Preparing work in whole or in part, with the expectation that this work will be submitted by a student for appraisal.

2.1.2 Impersonation is to have someone impersonate one’s self in class, in a test, examination or interview, or in connection with any other type of assignment or placement associated with a course or academic program. Both the impersonator and the individual impersonated may be charged.

2.1.3 Plagiarism is the misappropriation of the work of another by representing another person’s ideas, writing or other intellectual property as one’s own. This includes the presentation of all or part of another person’s work as something one has written, paraphrasing another’s writing without proper acknowledgement, or representing another’s artistic or technical work or creation as one’s own. Any use of the work of others, whether published, unpublished or posted electronically, attributed or anonymous, must include proper acknowledgement.

2.1.4 Improper research practices. Academic research includes the collection, analysis, interpretation and publication of information or data obtained in the scientific laboratory or in the field. Forms of improper research practices include:

• Dishonest reporting of investigative results, either through fabrication or falsification;
• Taking or using the research results of others without permission or due acknowledgement;
• Misrepresentation or selective reporting of research results or the methods used.

2.1.5 Dishonesty in publication. It is a violation of academic honesty to knowingly publish information that will mislead or deceive readers. This includes the falsification or fabrication of data or information, as well as the failure to give credit to collaborators as joint authors or the listing as authors of others who have not contributed to the work. Plagiarism is also considered a form of dishonesty in publication.

2.1.6 Dissemination of information without permission. Information or experimental data that was collected with a member of faculty or another student, and other works that involved the participation of a faculty member or another
student, should not be submitted for publication or otherwise disseminated without their permission.

2.1.7 **Abuse of confidentiality.** Taking or releasing the ideas or data of others that were given with the expectation that they are confidential is inappropriate. This includes the ideas or data obtained via the evaluation of confidential grant proposals, award applications or manuscripts that will be or may have been submitted for possible funding or publication. Unless one is authorized to do so, it is improper to obtain a password assigned to another or to copy or modify a data file or program belonging to someone else. Proper authorization means being granted permission either by the owner or originator of that material, or by an appropriate faculty member or administrator.

2.1.8 **Falsification or unauthorized modification of an academic document/record.** It is a breach of academic honesty to falsify, fabricate or in any way modify, either through omission or commission, an application to the University or a program, course student examination or test, transcript, grade, letter of recommendation or related document, a degree, a physician’s letter/form or any other document used in support of an academic application, record, petition/appeal or endeavor.

2.1.9 **Obstruction of the academic activities of another.** It is a violation of academic honesty to interfere with the scholarly activities of another in order to harass or gain unfair academic advantage. This includes interference or tampering with experimental data, with a human or animal subject, with a written or other creation (e.g., a painting, sculpture or film), with a chemical used for scientific study, or with any other object of study.

2.1.10 **Aiding and abetting.** Encouraging, enabling or causing others to do or attempt any of the above with intent to mislead an instructor, academic unit, program, office or committee as to a student’s academic status, qualifications, actions or preparation, or knowingly aiding or abetting anyone in a breach of academic honesty shall itself be considered misconduct.

2.2 **Summary of Penalties for Academic Misconduct**

When verified, violations of academic honesty may lead to the following range of penalties, which may be imposed singularly or in combination for any offence. The following penalties are listed in ascending order of severity.

2.2.1 **Written disciplinary warning or reprimand.**

2.2.2 **Required completion of an academic honesty assignment.**

2.2.3 **Make-up assignment, examination or rewriting a work, subject to a lowered grade.**

2.2.4 **Lower grade on the assignment, examination or work.**

2.2.5 **Lower grade in the course.**

2.2.6 **Failure in the course.**
2.2.7 **Permanent grade of record.** The grade assigned shall remain as the one grade of record for the course, even if the course is repeated. This penalty can be added to any other penalty, but shall always be attached to the penalty of failure in the course.

2.2.8 **Notation on transcript.** Notation on transcript can be a separate penalty or it can be added to any other penalty. Transcript notation shall always be included in cases of suspension, withholding or rescinding a York degree, diploma or certificate and expulsion from the University. Transcript notation can be for a limited period, at the end of which the notation will be removed from the student’s transcript. When no period is specified for a transcript notation, a student may petition to the Faculty Petitions Committee to have the notation removed after a period of five years from the date at which the notation was entered, with the exception of notation of expulsion from the University.

2.2.9 **Suspension from the University for a definite period, not to exceed 5 years, with transcript notation.** Suspension is defined as a penalty of a variable but limited period during which the student may not register in the University, imposed for serious academic offences such as plagiarism and cheating. A student who is otherwise eligible to graduate, but is suspended, may not apply to graduate until the suspension expires or is lifted. This penalty may be awarded only by a Faculty-level committee which is recognized by a Faculty Council as the responsible body to assign this penalty.

2.2.10 **Expulsion from the University with transcript notation.** Expulsion is defined as permanently terminating a person’s right to continue as a student in the University. This penalty may be awarded only by a Faculty-level committee which is recognized by a Faculty Council as the responsible body to assign this penalty.

2.2.11 **Withholding or rescinding a York degree, diploma or certificate with transcript notation.** When a Faculty decides to rescind a degree, diploma or certificate, the decision, with supporting documentation, must be forwarded to the Senate Appeals Committee for approval on behalf of Senate.