COURSE DESCRIPTION
We will examine the social, economic, political and cultural basis for the contemporary multicultural policies of national states by situating ideas and practices of multiculturalism within their historical, global and political context. As “culture” does not exist outside of people's lived experiences, we will investigate how ideas of multiculturalism have been shaped by social relationships organized through practices and ideologies of colonialism, nationalism, racism and sexism. We will also examine how practices of multiculturalism go on to further organize these sets of social relations. In particular, we will examine the various identifications borne of these ideological practices. Using a comparative approach with analysis drawn from the United States, Canada and Australia, the course considers a variety of concepts, models and practices of multiculturalism. By taking a transnational and interdisciplinary approach, we will place histories, discourses and disciplines in productive relation. At the same time, we will look at specific state policies in these three sites, including state policies of White-settler colonialism, immigration, citizenship and the organization of nationalized labour markets to better contextualize the contemporary multicultural policies in these three national states. Attention will be paid to paradoxes, questions and dilemmas arising from hierarchical social structures through a close examination of the demands for, challenges against, and effects of multicultural policies.

CLASS FORMAT
This course will be run as a seminar. Students are therefore responsible for coming fully prepared for each class and ready to lead class discussions. Students are responsible for the material covered in the lectures, readings and films, and for any announcements made in class.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES
Students will develop their critical learning skills by: examining the historical origins of key ideas, concepts and categories shaping human experience today; examining the relations or ruling that organize dominant ideas, concepts and categories and; examining how people have variously contested these ideas, concepts and categories. Students will also develop their reading, writing and oral presentation skills in order to
become clear thinkers and articulate communicators of theoretically informed empirical research.

ETHICS (E) FOCUS
Students will be instructed on how to gain proficiency in ethical deliberation. As such, we will not attempt to maintain an “arms-length” relationship with current ethical issues related to state policies and discourses of multiculturalism. Therefore, we will investigate how such policies shape social action and how they organize social relations.

CLASS EVALUATION
Attendance and Participation 10%
Journal Assignments (5) 10%
Small Group Discussion Leadership 25%
Research Essay Outline 15%
Final Research Essay (12-15 pages) 40%

REQUIRED READINGS

