Critical Dialogue on Race, Gender and Diversity
WGST 320 (Special Topics)
Course Meeting Time: Mondays 4:00-6:45 p.m. Classroom RSS 250
Co-Instructors: Dr. Kristi Brian (office: RSS 238) & Dr. Adé Ofunniyin (office: Bell South – TBA)
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Office Hours: Dr. O. – Mondays 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and by appointment

This course will offer students a framework for engaging in meaningful dialogue about racism, sexism and related forms of oppression. We will consider anthropological understandings on the construction of race and the impact of institutional and structural racism. We will also read interdisciplinary scholarship on the impact of gendered assumptions, roles and language on social structure and relationships. The course will introduce students to the methods of Intergroup Dialogue and allow us to practice these methods through structured interactive exercises that we will debrief in class. Assignments will include weekly written reflections and a dialogue project. The goal is to inspire students to engage in their own understanding of what it means to develop a social justice lens through which to view oppression, social change and liberation. The course is intended to produce leaders on campus who will be well prepared to build and promote diverse and inclusive communities. Transgender students are encouraged to participate.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- To introduce students to the literature on racial formation as a way of understanding race as a social construction
- To sharpen students' awareness of how gender operates in contemporary cultures and societies
- To guide students in their own critical analysis of gender-based and race-based differences, dominance and power
- To introduce non-binary perspectives on gender and to practice using the language that supports this non-binary approach
- To engage students in the methods of Intergroup Dialogue in order to strategically build skills for communicating across difference and creating community
- To help students understand the intersections of racism and sexism with other forms of prejudice and discrimination
- To allow students the opportunity to practice using and resolving conflict for the purpose of greater shared understanding
- To build energy and enthusiasm for the dialogue process

Required Reading:
- Non-Binary Gender Identity Vocabulary
- Several other readings will be posted to OAKS