

EDST 598: Anti-Racism Praxis Lab: Theory, Practice and Activism

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This course offers an opportunity to engage, produce and reflect on anti-racism praxis. It invites critical engagement of interdisciplinary, integrative anti-racism theory and related theoretical concepts and ways of understanding groups, institutions and society and working for progressive change. It also asks us to bring and work with our bodies, identities, identifications and standpoints- knowledge as embodied. The course values our personal, group and collective histories, politics- what we have learned in educational institutions, where we stand on issues and how we do and can act differently and/or (even) better interpersonally, in institutions, community, society to contribute to representation, equity, social justice. It asks that we share and (re)examine our concrete anti-racist work, whether completed, in process or contemplated- our pedagogy, our analysis of policies, our artwork, our community work and our activism. And it asks that we refuse binaries- theory v practice, academy v community, teacher v learner, etc. and instead insist on their imbrication as praxis. We will take up texts (written, visual) of integrative anti-racism and related discourses- decolonialism, feminism, queer theory, etc. to inform, produce, extend or rethink concrete projects in necessarily intersectionalist ways, realizing that addressing racism is central but that things are often more complicated, that it usually is about what bell hooks has named “imperialist, white supremacist, capitalist patriarchy.” How do we address racism in institutions of higher learning (locally, internationally)? How do we engage anti-racism projects that cut across equity denied communities, taking into account the specificities of and differences between anti-Indigenous, anti-Black, anti-Asian racisms? How can dance, theatre and poetry constitute integrative anti-racism public pedagogy? How do we rethink the taken-for-grantedness of Canadian multiculturalism from an anti-racist or critical race theory or decolonial perspective? How do we integrate race and analysis of racism in projects of disability rights or queer politics? How do we address environmental racism locally with global climate change in mind? How do we theorize and (re)conceptualize our practice and activism with the modest caveat Stuart Hall names “without guarantees”? In this lab we will bring theory, practice and activism together to initiate, develop, experiment with, share and/or reflect on these/our/each others/other others concrete projects, in an atmosphere of radical hospitality.