

Race, Ethnicity and Migration. Western Civilization 330-101-DW 12001 (G. Peters), General Psychology 350-101-DW 12001 (S. Hamdani) and Introduction to Anthropology 381-101-DW 12001 (C. Howell)

In this cluster of introductory courses, students take three classes taught by three different teachers. The teachers have designed their learning activities and assignments to focus on one common theme, so that learning in one course supports learning in the others. General Studies students in this unique learning community will benefit from closer relationships with teachers and peers, even as they master the competencies required of all Social Science students. The theme of **Race, Ethnicity and Migration** allows the posing of challenging interdisciplinary questions across the three courses. You may have heard, for example, that biologically, race doesn't exist - but what does that mean? It certainly exists on a historical, social, and political level, so how can we say it doesn't exist biologically? If we understand that race is a social category that influences how we treat different people, we can change how we see ourselves and how we see our relationship with others. From **anthropology** we can learn where humans came from and how they migrated over the entire planet. We can also learn why biology is not the place to search for race. From **psychology**, we can learn how individuals define their identity, how they cope with the effects of discrimination, and how these effects can influence the genetic make up of offspring and their coping mechanisms (epigenetics). From **history**, we can learn when and why we shifted from distinguishing between ethnic groups to using the idea of race to oppress non-whites. We can also learn what societal events made people emigrate, and how they were received in their new countries.