**Building Reflection on Everyday Racialisation Processes into a Race and Ethnicity in Society Module in the Department of Sociology, Social Policy & Criminology, at University of Southampton**

Academic Year 2021-22 Teaching team included: Paul Bridgen (co-convener), Rosalind Edwards (co-convener), Rachel Ayrton, Silke Roth, Bindi Shah, Maria Villares-Varela

An option module open to second and third year undergraduates

**Module Aim**:- to introduce students to the current and historical significance of race and ethnicity, not as abstractions but as “lived” realities that engender social divisions within as well as between societies

**Discipline-specific learning outcomes**:

Develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of sociological perspectives on race, ethnicity, and difference

Appreciate and treat race and ethnicity as historically variable and contextually-situated social constructs

Understand and conceptualise race and ethnicity at the intersection of both institutional/social structure(s) and individual agency through social interaction

Reflect on own experiences, as well as public discussion and media reports, to evaluate race, ethnicity, and difference in a theoretically and empirically-informed manner.

**Assignments:**

This module was assessed through two components:

1. The Reflective Narrative assignment- 1500 words (excluding references) 40% of mark
2. Critical essay – 2500 words (excluding references) 60 % of mark.

The Reflective Narrative assignment was due after the theoretical and conceptual content of the module had been introduced.

Students had choice of viewing three programmes:

 1/David Olusoga ->  The Unwanted: The Secret Windrush Files

2/ Steve McQueen -> Small Axe: Red, White and Blue – about Leroy Logan, founding member and chair of Black Police Association

3/ BBC Panorama -> Let's talk about race

Guidance given to students for Reflective Narrative in the module guide included the following:

Following your viewing, write a reflective narrative which provides a personal account of something that struck a chord, be it the way the topic is portrayed, a thought that occurred while watching the film/documentary, or who is/are the main narrators/actors.

This assignment is designed to encourage you to offer your own reflections, not copy somebody else's. You therefore have full freedom to choose what to write about and how to write your piece. While this might seem like a daunting endeavour, you can think of it as an opportunity to tell us what you think about something that you noticed which relates to the kinds of issues and debates we have been discussing in the module so far. See it as liberating, not as constricting. So long as you have something to say (and you do!) on something that you saw (and you did!), then all you have to concentrate on is how to tell that story making sure you tell this as clearly as possible.

This not a traditional essay! You are expected to write a personal narrative to describe and give an account of:

 What you saw, noticed

 What you make of it

 Why did it make you pause and think

 Why do you think it is important in relation to TWO of the following concepts discussed during the module: race, ethnicity, multiculturalism, racism, anti-racism, nationality, nationalism, imperialism, colonialism, “otherness”/racial or cultural difference, culture, civilisation, Islamophobia, whiteness

There is a published example of first person writing below which might inspire you. We will provide more examples and reviews on Blackboard in the early weeks of the semester. However, these should be regarded very much as general guides: make sure you put your own personal stamp on your piece of work.

https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2015/feb/08/black-experience-photography-community-v-and-a

Marking criteria for Reflective narrative:

These criteria apply to this assignment only\*

Content

Have you provided your reader with background on the programme you watched? You should do this quite briefly but you should not assume the reader has seen the programme. You need to provide the context for the observation you have made. Have you signposted your piece giving the reader a good idea of how it will develop? Is all this well described in your narrative?

Do you have something to say? What is it? State it clearly!

Have you full engaged with the programmes? What did you think about them? How do they relate to the issues explored throughout the module, particularly the conceptual debates referred to above?

Writing Style

Have you written your narrative in clear English? Is your writing neat, fluent, and readable? Is the grammar and spelling correct?

Would you enjoy reading this narrative were it published? What might be missing? Be the judge of your own work!

Additional guidance given in the seminar addressed the following:

1. Voice, tone and style:

Can I write in the first person? Yes! This is your story and it is you telling it.

How do I write it? There is no template on how to write your reflective narrative, but it should generally include the following:

* What you saw, noticed
* What you make of it
* Why did it make you pause and think
* Why do you think it is important in relation to TWO of the following concepts discussed during the module: race, ethnicity, multiculturalism, racism, anti-racism, nationality, nationalism, imperialism, colonialism, “otherness”/racial or cultural difference, culture, civilisation, Islamophobia, whiteness
1. How to succeed:

How can I do well in this assignment? By making sure you have a story to tell! So long as you noticed something that you think is important and you want to share it with us, you will do well provided that your narrative answers the above questions.