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**COLLEGE: MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

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**COURSE: COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH**

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**TOPIC: RACISM**

 **Racism** is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioral traits corresponding to physical appearance and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another. It may also mean prejudice, discrimination or antagonism directed against other people because they are of a different race or ethnicity. Modern variants of racism are often based in social perceptions of biological differences between people. These views can take the form of social actions, practices or beliefs or political systems in which different races are ranked as inherently superior or inferior to each other, based on presumed shared inheritable traits, abilities or qualities.

 In terms of political sciences (e.g., apartheid) that support the expression of prejudice or aversion in discriminatory practices or laws, racist ideology may include associated social aspects such as nativism, xenophobia, otherness, segregation, hierarchical ranking and supremacism. While the concepts of race and ethnicity are considered to be separate in contemporary social science, the two terms have a long history of equivalence in popular usage and older science literature. **Ethnicity** is often used in a sense close to one traditionally attributed to **race**: the division of human groups based on qualities assumed to be essential or innate to the group (e.g. shared ancestry or shared behavior). Therefore, racism and racial discrimination are often used to describe discrimination on an ethnic or cultural basis, independent of whether these differences are described as racial.

 Racism is a relatively modern concept, arising in the European age of imperialism, the subsequent growth of capitalism, and especially the Atlantic slave trade, of which it was a major driving force. Racism has played a role in genocides such as the holocausts, the Armenian genocides and genocide of Serbs and colonial projects including the European colonization of the Americas, Africa, and Asia as well as well as the soviet deportations of indigenous minorities. Indigenous minorities have been and are often subjects to racist attitudes.