

**To:** Faculty, Staff and Students  
**From:** Mike Martin  
**Re:** Statement – FYI

This is a statement I intend to use as a reply to the several emails we've received and continue to receive.

---

There has been considerable buzz about a course being offered by FGCU's Sociology Department entitled "White Racism." Allow me to add a bit of context to the discussion. First, this is a contemporary topic being explored and debated at universities around the country in class, symposia, by panels and in the academic setting under various titles.

As our students have done, reviewing the course content is much more instructive than passing judgement based on a two-word title.

Second, at FGCU, as at all great universities, we teach our students critical thinking skills by challenging them to think independently and critically about important, even if controversial, issues of our times.

And third, we respect the academic freedom of our faculty as they create coursework which fits into the broad parameters of our curricula, even when some disagree with the specific application of that freedom.

Our students have demonstrated a real interest in topics such as this and fully understand they are empowered, indeed, encouraged to participate in spirited, respectful debate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mike Martin, President