Course Description and Objective:
This course investigates the relationship between racial knowledge and power, paying special attention to the disciplinary constructions of the “racial subject.” We will read anthropological and sociological formulations of race and ethnicity to identify how they describe racial subjection, how they characterize the racial privileged and racial subaltern subject, and the strategies of emancipation they suggest. At the same time, we will examine critical and oppositional writings by racial subaltern scholars (in the United Stats and elsewhere) and their proposed strategies for racial emancipation. The objective of the course is not to replace racism’s projections with the “truth” of our reality, but rather to take seriously the power of language and discourse, and to develop the tools to recognize and challenge “common sense” assumptions about “race.”

Required Readings
Note: Please bring texts to class.
2) Robin d.g. Kelley. *Yo’ Mama’s Disfunktional: Fighting the Culture Wars in Urban America.*
4) Reader on E-Reserve

Course Requirements
1) Attendance and active class participation 20%
2) Exercises:
   Assignment # 1: Due date: October 12 (3rd week) 10%
   Assignment # 2: Due date: Nov. 21 (8th week) 10%
3) Midterm (Take-home): Due date: November 2 30%
4) Final (Take-home): Due date: Scheduled final exam date 30%

Reading and Lecture Schedule
Note: * denotes E-Reserve

9/21: Introduction

Week 1. Sept. 26 & 28 – Ethnic Studies and Ghostly Matters
   * Yen Le Espiritu, “Disciplines Unbound: Notes on Sociology and Ethnic Studies,”
   *Contemporary Sociology* 1999, pp. 510-514
Week 2. Oct. 3 & 5 – Power and Knowledge: Writing the Racial Subject
Laura Kang, Compositional Subjects, Ch. 1 (29-70).

Week 3. Oct. 10 & 12 – The Sociology of Race Relations
Robin Kelley, Yo’ Mama’s Disfunktional!, Introduction and Chapter 1 (pp. 1-42).
October 12. First Exercise Due

Week 4. Oct. 17 & 19 – Culture and Power
Robin Kelley, Yo’ Mama’s Disfunktional!, Chs. 2 and 3 (pp. 43-102)
Laura Briggs, Reproducing Empire, Ch. 6 (162-192)

Week 5. Oct. 24 & 26 – Historical -Materialism
Robin Kelley, Yo’ Mama’s Disfunktional!, Chs. 4 & 5 (pp. 103-158).

Week 6. Oct. 31 & Nov. 2 –
Oct. 31 – Catch-up and Review Day
Nov. 2—Take -home midterm due. Note that we will not have class on that day.

Week 7. Nov. 7 & Nov. 9 – Women as Objects of Knowledge
Laura Kang, Compositional Subjects, Chs. 2-3 (pp. 71-163)
Laura Briggs, Reproducing Empire, Ch. 5 and Epilogue (pp. 162-209)
Week 8. Nov. 14 & Nov. 16 -- Global/Transnational Approach to Ethnic Studies
   Laura Kang, Compositional Subjects, Ch. 4 (pp. 164-214).
   Laura Briggs, Reproducing Empire, Introduction and Ch. 1 (pp. 1-45)

   Laura Briggs, Reproducing Empire, Chs. 2-4 (pp. 46-141)
   Nov. 21 – Second Exercise Due

Week 10. Nov. 28 & Nov. 30 – Contending with Representation
   Laura Kang, Compositional Subjects, Ch. 5 (pp. 215-270)
   Review and Conclusion