

ETHN 200A – DEPARTURES
A Genealogy of Critical Racial and Ethnic Studies
Fall 2008

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Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays (5:00p – 6:30p) or by appointment

THE PROGRAMME

In this seminar we will trace a shift in the theorizing of racial subjection, which is marked by a move away from the understanding of racial subjugation as an effect of white/Europeans' negative reactions to peoples of color's physical and mental (moral) traits. Through an analysis that seeks what cannot be immediately addressed by social scientific tools, we will explore the limits of the notions of cultural difference and racial difference deployed in sociological and anthropological studies. After teasing out that which is erased by these mainstream disciplinary projects, we will consider how Ethnic Studies is carving a radical intellectual position from which to respond to the challenges present global configurations of power pose to those involved in the project of global (racial) justice. When doing so, not only will we be interested in identifying the contributions and limitations of this line of critical interrogation. More importantly, we will consider what political strategies may dissipate the cycle of dispossession, displacement, and death which, since the initial moment of conquest, has marked the trajectory of the "others of Europe."

Your Task:

Email Responses

Every week you will email to everyone in the class a response (1,000 words) to the assigned readings. In your response, you should: (a) identify the text(s)'s main concepts and formulations, (b) related these to points raised in the previous discussions and (c) include at least three questions for discussion in class.

Discussion Mediation Guidelines

Weeks 3-5- each week two students will be responsible for leading the seminar. They will be responsible for, drawing from the questions raised in the email responses, preparing a guide for class discussion. Everyone will present during this phase.

Weeks 6-8 - the discussion mediators and I will select a number of articles and/or book chapters that will complement the assigned books. Everyone will present again during this phase.

Evaluation: 50% (Class Participations) & 50% (Discussion Mediation)

THE ITINERARY

Week 01 – September 30: Departures

Dispossession, Displacement, Death

Week 02 – October 7

Gordon's *Ghostly Matters**

Week 03 – October 14

Smith's *Conquest*

Fanon's "On Violence" & "National Culture" in *The Wretched of the Earth***

The Social Scientific Toolbox

Week 04 – October 21

Omi & Winant's *Racial Formation in the United States*

Park's *Race and Culture* (chapters)

Week 05 – October 28

Kelley's *Yo Mama's DisFunktional*

Myrdal' *An American Dilemma* (chapters)

Cox's *Caste, Class, and Race* (chapters)

Departures

Week 06 – November 04

Kang's *Compositional Subjects*

Week 07 – November 11

Espiritu's *Homebound*

Week 08 – November 18:

Yoneyama's *Hiroshima's Traces*

Week 09 – November 25:

Silva's *Toward a Global Idea of Race*

Week 10 – December 02: Openings

*books available at Groundworks

** chapters available in electronic format