ETHNIC STUDIES 200A: 
A Genealogy of Critical Racial and Ethnic Studies

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Office Location: Department of Ethnic Studies, SSB 232
Office Hours: Mondays 4-5pm and Wednesdays by appointment

Course Description

This course offers a cross-disciplinary survey of salient analytical approaches to the study of race and ethnicity. We will begin by engaging some foundational debates and themes that have framed the development of the field of Ethnic Studies since its incarnation in the late 1960s. Here, we will pay particular attention to how Ethnic Studies scholars have incorporated, extended, critiqued and challenged dominant modes of theoretical, methodological and disciplinary inquiry, thus generating new perspectives on the study of race and ethnicity. We will then turn to recent critical departures within the field, exploring how postmodern destabilizations of categorical binaries and boundaries have opened the field to new modes and forms of knowledge production. We will conclude with a discussion of emergent approaches and trajectories in Ethnic Studies, asking how the ethnic studies project might engender new political-intellectual positions that respond to ever-shifting global couplings of power and difference.

Required Texts

Books (Available online)

Articles
- Assigned articles will be available as PDF documents on ERes (http://reserves.ucsd.edu/eres/default.aspx)

Accommodations
I wish to make this course as accessible as possible to students with disabilities or medical conditions that may affect any aspect of course assignments or participation. If you require any specific accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible. Also, if you prefer to be called by a different name than the one with which you are enrolled, I will also be happy to oblige.
Course Guidelines

Participation (20%)
As with any graduate seminar, active participation in class discussions is essential. Do master the weekly readings and arrive to seminar prepared to discuss them in detail.

Responses (60%)
Each week you will craft a 900-word response to the assigned readings. These critical commentaries will serve to organize seminar conversation and debate (see guidelines below). Please include at least two discussion questions that put the assigned texts—and, if appropriate, readings from prior weeks—into dialogue.

Student Presentations (20%)
Each week two-three students will be responsible for leading our weekly meeting, and each student will lead a seminar twice during the semester. See guidelines below.

Guidelines for Seminar Presentations and Response Papers
In your presentations and response papers, do not merely summarize the content of the readings; rather, please reflect critically on the author(s)'s intellectual project, using the following questions as a point of departure:

- What are the central questions that each text aims to address?
- How is the text structured? Describe its theoretical framework, methodological approach(es), and its relation to (inter)disciplinary conventions.
- What kinds of evidence are used to support the text’s central arguments, and is this evidence persuasive?
- What are the theoretical and practical implications of the work?
- How do the central formulations of the text relate to issues raised in previous discussions?
- Taken together, what conversation(s) can you trace between the assigned texts? How do these conversations disrupt, challenge, or extend formulations outlined in prior readings?
Reading Schedule

UNIT ONE: FOUNDATIONS

Week One—Hegemony and Racial Formation


Week Two—Beyond the Epiphenomenon: Articulations


Week Three—Intersections and Co-constitutions


Somerville, Siobhan B. “Scientific Racism and the Emergence of the
**Week Four—History and Narrativity: On Silences and Hauntings**

**Mon. 10/18**  
**Avery Gordon.** “not only the footprints but the water too and what is down there” in *Ghostly Matters: Haunting and the Sociological Imagination*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008 (2nd Edition).


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**Week Five—Popular Culture and Relations of Representation**

**Mon. 10/25**  


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**UNIT TWO: DEPARTURES**

**Week Six—What is this “ethnic” in ethnic studies?**

**Mon. 11/1**  

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**Week Seven—Queering Ethnic Studies**

**Mon. 11/8**  


Week Eight—On Race and Nation: Ethnic Studies Meets Native American Studies


Week Nine—Transnationalizing Ethnic Studies


Week Ten—New Directions

Mon. 11/29  WRAP UP: looking back, thinking ahead