ETHN 200A — Departures: A Genealogy of Critical Racial and Ethnic Studies

Ethnic Studies 200A
Fall 2012
Tuesday 10:00 – 12:50PM, SSB 103

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Course Description

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 the physical and mental (moral/cultural) traits of peoples of color. 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, anthropological, and other studies.

After teasing out that which is erased by mainstream disciplinary projects, we will consider how Ethnic Studies is carving a radical intellectual position from which to respond to the challenges that global configurations of power pose to those involved in the project of global (racial) justice. We will take interest in identifying the contributions and limitations of this line of critical interrogation, and will consider what political strategies may dissipate the cycle of dispossession, displacement, and death that, since the initial moment of conquest, has marked the trajectory of the “others of Europe.”

Assigned books

NOTE: Please plan on purchasing or arranging for library copies.


*readings from the Ethnic Studies Graduate Reading List
Organization and Guidelines for Presentation and Written Work

Weekly seminar assignments:

1) Discussion: attendance and active participation in the group discussions of the weekly readings during the seminar meetings.

2) Response: beginning Week 2, each Sunday evening you will post a response (around 900 words/3 pages) to the assigned readings. Your response will help to focus seminar discussion and should:
   (a) locate the ways in which a comparative, interdisciplinary, and relational approach emerges from disciplinary traditions and concerns
   (b) identify the central questions that each text aims to address
   (c) pose at least 2 questions for discussion in seminar

3) Presentation: lead two seminar discussions during the quarter during weeks 2-9;

4) Synthesis: write two 4-6 page response papers, each covering the assigned readings for a week in which you presented. Synthesis papers are due at the beginning of class the week after your presentation. Your paper should address:
   • 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 are the opportunities and limitations of various comparative and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality?

Evaluation: 50% class discussions and 50% responses, presentations and written work.

Accommodations

We will 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.
Syllabus

Readings are marked in the syllabus according to the following:

E available on the TED/webCT website
or by following the Stable URL through Roger.
Week 1 readings are also available at: http://dss.ucsd.edu/~rfrank

NOTE: Please do the readings prior to each week’s meeting.

Week 1: October 2 Introduction - What is Ethnic Studies?

Please read the following for Week 1 seminar:


Week 2: October 9 The move away...

Week 3: October 16 What cannot be immediately addressed...

Week 4: October 23 Historical departures

Week 5: October 30 Sociological genealogies
http://socialtext.dukejournals.org/cgi/content/long/23/3-4_84-85/27

Week 6: November 6 Anthropological genealogies
Week 7: November 13 Transnational departures


Andrea Smith. “American Studies without America: Native Feminisms and the Nation-State,” *American Quarterly* 60.2 (June, 2008): 309-315 [E](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/american_quarterly/v060/60.2.smith01.html)

Week 8: November 20 Global configurations of power

Week 9: November 27 Others of Europe

Week 10: December 4 Summary - Journeys