Ethnic Studies 150/ Critical Gender Studies 150  
Visuality, Sexuality and Race Syllabus  
Fall 2014

Professor: Daphne V. Taylor-Garcia, dtg@ucsd.edu  
Class: Tuesday/Thursday 5:00—6:20pm at Center 201  
Office Location: Department of Ethnic Studies, SSB 226  
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 3:30pm—4:30pm and by appointment

Course Description:

I’m not given a second chance. I am overdetermined from the outside. I am the slave not to the “idea” others have of me, but to my appearance.  
- Frantz Fanon

Visuality is a specific term to refer to the way in which power relations construct our visual field. In other words, how we make sense of what we “see” is mediated by existing power relations. Visuality classifies through the power to name, categorize and define, thus producing what is legible. This system of classification is a means of social organization that began with the casta system and plantation slavery, but is now structural in its reproduction and expansion of colonial effects such as racial profiling and the coloniality of gender. Visuality also speaks to the naturalization of this system of classification that has serious immediate and long-term material consequences: it functions to both renew power relations and preempt colonial subjects from organizing for their collective interests. For this reason presenting a counternarrative to visuality has been central to queer of color critique.

Required Texts:

Books can be purchased at the UCSD Bookstore:


All other course readings can be viewed and downloaded via TED.

-Please bring copies of the readings to class.
-Please note: Readings may be edited or added depending on class discussions.

Accommodations:

I would like to ensure this class is accessible to everyone. Please contact me as soon as possible if you require any specific accommodations for a disability or medical reason.
Course Requirements:

Reader Response: 10%
Write a response to the readings in Unit 1. You can discuss what you found interesting, what questions were raised for you, what you disagreed with, etc.

Précis (three of them): 10% each = 30%
Please see TED under the “instructions” tab for specific guidelines on how to write a précis.

Special Event: 10%
Attend a special event relevant to the course hosted by Ethnic Studies, Critical Gender Studies, the Black Studies Project, or the Chicano/a–Latino/a Arts and Humanities Program. Write a 1 pg report of what you learned or what questions were raised for you from the event. Assignment is due within one week of the event’s date.

Participation: 20%
Please see below.

Final Paper: 20%
Write a 5 to 7-page reflection paper thinking through visuality, sexuality, and race based on the course, referencing a minimum of three (3) texts from the syllabus. Footnote when necessary and make sure to include your works cited as a sixth page.

Presentation: 10%
Create a 5-7 minute presentation based on your final paper. Feel free to draw from any of your written assignments from the class, or bring in additional visual material.

Attendance/Participation:

Seminar style classes are discussion based. So while I will lecture to help elucidate, contextualize or elaborate a particular concept, it is also expected that students will come to class ready to engage in a discussion.

Please arrive in class having completed the assigned readings for the day. Informed and engaged discussion is a critical part of the learning process and everyone is, of course, expected to contribute.

Grading Policy:

Students must complete all assignments to get a passing grade in the class.

All submitted assignments should be double-spaced in 12pt font Times New Roman or equivalent.

Schedule:

October 2
Welcoming and Introductions
UNIT 1
Brief Historical Context

Week 1
October 7
Ilona Katzew. Excerpt from Casta Painting

October 9
Angela Davis, “Rape, Racism, and the Myth of the Black Rapist.”

Week 2
October 14
Eithne Luibheid. “Looking like a Lesbian: The Organization of Sexual Monitoring at the
US/Mexico Border.” Due: 2-page reader response

UNIT 2
Visuality, Sexuality, and Race: Defining a Phenomenological Approach

October 16
and Feminist Theory.”

Week 3
October 21
Sara Ahmed. Excerpt from Queer Phenomenology

October 23
Maurice Merleau-Ponty. Excerpt from Phenomenology of Perception

Week 4
October 28
Jean-Paul Sartre. Excerpt from Being and Nothingness
Due: 2 page précis of Sartre

October 30
Frantz Fanon. Black Skin, White Masks. Pages xi—44

Week 5
November 4
Fanon cont’d. Pages 45—88

November 6
Fanon cont’d. Pages 89—184

Week 6
November 11
Veteran’s Day
November 13
Fanon cont’d. Pages 185—206
Due: 3 page précis of Fanon

UNIT 3
Phenomenology of Experience and Identity

Week 7
November 18
Rory Crath. “Reading Fanon in ‘Homosexual Territory’: Towards a Queering of Queer Pedagogy.”

November 20

Week 8
November 25
Jacqueline Martinez. *Phenomenology of Chicana Experience and Identity*. Pages 1—31
Keyword: Semiotics

November 27
Thanksgiving

Week 9
December 2
Martinez cont’d Pages 33—80

December 4
Martinez cont’d Pages 81—133
Due: 3 page précis of Martinez

UNIT 4
The Students Teach!

Week 10
December 9
Presentations

December 11
Presentations continued

Final: 5-7 minute presentation based on final paper. Final paper is to be 5-7 pages.

Final Papers Due December 15th by 1pm at SSB 226.