ETHN 101 Ethnic Images in Film: Race, Gender, Sexuality
M/W 2:00–4:50pm HSS 1106A
UCSD Summer Session II 2014

Instructor: Linh Nguyen
email: ltn024@ucsd.edu
OH: M/W 12:30–1:30pm at Women’s Center and by appt.

Course Description:
The genre of film is universally consumed, the source of pleasure, anger, and frustration—films are one of the most accessible avenues of culture. This course will examine the ways that race, gender, sexuality are represented by mainstream and independent filmmakers in North America. As contested sites of meaning making, we will engage films within the structures of white supremacist capitalism and examine the ways they challenge and/or reinforce and construct gendered, ethnic, racial, sexual and national meaning.

Course Goals:
Apply Ethnic Studies to the analysis of film and media.
Engage the significance of race, class, gender, sexuality to the production of film and vice versa.
Evaluate, and assess arguments and texts and formulate nuanced analyses.

Assignments and Grades:

Attendance and Participation: 20%
Due to the accelerated pace of this class, more than one unexcused absence will result in a grade deduction of a full letter grade per subsequent absence. Everyone is expected to participate!

Film reflection papers: 30%
Due weeks 1–4 on Friday by 11:59pm. In lieu of a midterm exam, reflection papers are a space for you to critically engage with the themes and material from each week. It should not be a summary, but rather a critical engagement with one of the week’s films and readings. Each of these papers should have a thesis that is supported by evidence from your texts. 2–4 pages, double spaced with sz. 12 font and 1” margins. Format will be discussed in lecture.

Reading Quizzes: 20%
There will be a minimum of five reading quizzes to be completed online on TED. They will be available for 24 hrs from Tuesday at 11 am to Wednesday at 11am. Any additional quizzes will be announced well in advance.

Final Exam: 30% Your exam will be a take home essay (5–7 double spaced pages, sz 12 font, 1” margins). The prompt will be distributed during Week 3 and due online on TED by 9pm on Friday September 5.

Email Policy
You must check your email regularly. I may email updates to the syllabus, and announcements. If you have missed class or have a question, your first contact should be your classmates. Don’t hesitate to email me for quick answers to questions not addressed in the syllabus and after your inquiries to classmates are unfruitful. I will do my best to reply within 24 hours on weekdays.
Texts and Course Materials
Readings are available on TED. Not bringing texts (this means printing them!) will impede with your ability to participate and make meaningful contributions to discussion; it will also reflect negatively on your participation grade. Readings are to be completed by the date indicated. Films to be viewed at home will be available as indicated in the syllabus.

Week 1
1. M 08/04  Introduction.
   Key Terms:
   Readings:
   1. Timothy Corrigan. Excerpts from Ch 2 and 3 of *A short guide to writing about film* (2012 8th. Ed) (just skim over 2. 3 is optional): 18-82
   Optional:
   Watch in class: Stuart Hall Representation and the Media (Dir. Sut Jhally, 1997)

2. W 08/06  Whiteness and Structural Inequality
   Key Terms:
   Readings:
   Watch: *Gran Torino* (Dir. Clint Eastwood, 2008)

Week 2
3. M 08/11  Representing Sexuality
   Reading:
   Watch in class: *Mosquita y Mari* (Dir Aurora Guererro, 2012)

4. W 08/13  Indigeneity and Settler Colonialism
   Reading:
2. Joanna Hearne. “John Wayne’s Teeth: Speech, Sound and Representation in Smoke Signals and Imagining Indians”

View at home: Dead Man (Dir. Jim Jarmusch, 1995) Available on Netflix
Viewing in class: Smoke Signals (Dir Chris Eyre, 1998)

Week 3

5. M 08/18 Racial Others, Racialized Space
Key Terms:
Reading:  
Watch in Class: TBA

6. W 08/20 Cont.
Key Terms:
Reading:  
2. Robin D. G. Kelley "Looking for the ‘Real’ Nigga: Social Scientists Construct the Ghetto.” from Yo Mama’s Disfunktional!
Watch out of class: Boyz N The Hood (Dir.
Watch in class: Fruitvale Station (Dir. Ryan Coogler, 2013)

Week 4

7. M 08/25 Asian America
Final Exam Guidelines distributed.
Key Terms:
Reading:  
View in class: The Motel (Dir Michael Kang, 2006)

8. W 08/27 US Empire-Wars in the Asia Pacific
Key Terms:
Reading:  
1. George Lipsitz. Ch. 4: Whiteness and War from The Possessive Investment in Whiteness
2. Yen Le Espiritu. "We-Win-Even-When-We-Lose” or “Toward a Critical Refugee Study” Viewing in class: Heaven and Earth (Dir. Oliver Stone, 1993)
Week 5

9. M 09/01 - NO CLASS LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Work on your Final.

View at home: TBA

10. W 09/03  Post-Racial, Multiculturalism and Revisionist Histories
Key Terms:

Reading:

Unthinking Eurocentrism

Viewing in class: The Help (Dir Tate Taylor, 2011)

09/05: Final Exam due on TED.

**Majoring or Minoring in Ethnic Studies**

Many students take an Ethnic Studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of interest yet do not realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An Ethnic Studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, education, medicine, public health, social work, counseling, journalism, government and politics, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor, please contact: Daisy Rodríguez, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor 858-534-3277 or d1rodriguez@ucsd.edu or visit www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu