ETHNIC STUDIES 3-Making Culture

Spring Quarter 2016

Email: kvis@ucsd.edu    Phone: (858) 534-8935
Office Hours: 2-3:00 pm W/F & by appointment in SSB 230

Course Description:

Through examining the historical and contemporary politics of representation in both popular and community-focused media, film, and literature, this course tracks racial formation through the study of cultural production, consumption, and contestation. Though widely accepted that race is a social construction, this complex social and cultural phenomenon continues to define all of us and creates material consequences in our experiences of the world. This is in large part due to the importance of racial distinctions in language (through discourse) and representation. This course will examine how race is not only “reflected” through representation but is also constituted through representation. We will focus in particular on how racialized-gender is used to demarcate and manage forms of social inclusion and exclusion. Through the study of popular film and media, this course asks how race and gender function to manage individuals as members of racial populations.
Course Philosophy and Pedagogy:

This class is intended to analyze and critically engage commonly held understandings of race, class, sexuality, and gender. The course is based around core theoretical themes and critiques, which are not opinions but theories that will form the basis for our analysis.

This course will be challenging for those with no background in ethnic studies and/or critical gender studies. Additionally, it will be challenging for those whose study time is juggled between parenting, work, activist and other obligations. However, every student invested in regularly attending class and keeping up with reading assignments can achieve a high grade.

ESL Needs: Some students will need to utilize office hours in order to get extra background and direction on the material. ESL students are highly encouraged to consult the resources at the OASIS center (858-534-3760) in order to earn full points on assignments. It is your responsibility to seek and utilize these resources as the need arises.

ADA Accommodation: If you have a disability or condition that compromises your ability to complete the requirements of this course, please inform me as soon as possible of your needs. I will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate you. If, as a result of a disability, you cannot accept the content or terms of this syllabus, you will need to notify me in writing within one week of receiving it.

Ground Rules: The number one ground rule which we will all follow is to engage in respectful and considerate debate and discussion in the classroom. Abusive and harsh language will not be tolerated. These ground rules are reflected in the UCSD Principles of Community, which we are all expected to follow (see http://wwwvcba.ucsd.edu/principles.htm).

Cheating and Plagiarism: Cheating and/or plagiarism are not tolerated behaviors at UCSD. If you are caught cheating on an exam or quiz or plagiarizing someone else's assignment, it will result in a failing grade and your infraction will be referred to your college for disciplinary action. If there is any suspicion that your assignments have been plagiarized, the case will be forwarded to the dean of your college for further investigation and appropriate disciplinary action.

Course Texts:

The syllabus and all required texts are available through the Triton Ed course website or through e-reserves in the UCSD library. You are required to complete all readings before the date of the lecture on which they are assigned.

Note: We will be watching several films in the class, but most are longer than 50 minutes, so you are required to watch them at home if they run longer than the allotted class hour. Where possible, a YouTube link has been given to these films in the syllabus; feature and documentary films are also on reserve in the library.
Course Requirements:

Class Attendance and Section Participation (10%)
Section Assignments (30%) Three assignments; 10% each
Mid-term Exam- (Short essay) 30%
Final Exam- (Short answer and Long Essay) 30%

Section assignments will be due in weeks 3, 7 and 9. The mid-term exam will be on April 27th. The final exam is scheduled for **Monday, June 6, 2016** from 3pm-6pm in PETERSON 108. Accommodations will be made for students with disabilities. We will not be able to reschedule the exam unless you are, or have been seriously ill and have a doctor’s note. No other exceptions will be made.

Extra Credit Opportunities:

Each section to have 1-2 student “captains” who will be given extra credit as part of their class participation grade and will serve the point persons for students in your section if they miss classes and need info on assignments, etc.

In addition there are four on-campus films or lectures on the following dates April 4th, April 7th, April 13th, and May 4th, 2016; and one off-campus event on April 30th for which you can earn extra credit by writing a 1-2 pg. report explaining the content of the lecture/film, and how it relates to concepts and ideas discussed in class. All extra credit will be factored into your class participation grade.

Electronic Devices:

All phones and electronic devices (PDA/iPod/iPad, laptops etc.) must be turned off or set to vibrate in the classroom. Electronic devices, including laptops, must be stowed at all times. If you opt use an electronic device during class you will be warned; additional usage will result in a failing participation grade. If you have a cell phone/PDA/iPod/laptop etc. out during a quiz or exam you will automatically fail the course. If you require an exception to the policy regarding the use of laptops please meet with me to secure approval and plan to sit in one of the front two rows of the classroom.

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
PART 1: RACE AND REPRESENTATION

Week 1

Mar 28 (M) Introduction, **Homework Assignment**: “Unpacking the Knapsack of Privilege” Turn in to your TA in your section this week (next week for Mon sections; it will not be graded but counts as part of class participation grade).


Week 2

Ap. 4- Stuart Hall, “The Work of Representation”; Timothy Corrigan “Preparing to Watch and Preparing to Write” in *A Short Guide to Writing About Film*

*Extra Credit* April 4th, 2016: Film: “FOR THE LOVE OF A MAN” 4:30pm-6:30 pm; Location: CALIT2 Auditorium

Documentary film-screening and a roundtable discussion featuring Joyojeet Pal (filmmaker), Erica Cho (Visual Arts), Ashwin Kini (Literature) and Sowparnika Balaswaminathan (Anthropology).

Ap. 6-Stuart Hall, “Spectacle of the Other;” short, “Race the Floating Signifier”

*Extra Credit* April 7, 2016 Eric Tang, "Unsettled: The Refugee in the Hyperghetto" Time: 4-6pm, Cross-Cultural Center, Communidad Room


Week 3

Ap. 11 (M) **FILM** “The Stuart Hall Project” *(Section Assignment #1 due)*

Recommended:

Ap. 13 (W)

Noenoe Silva, *Aloha Betrayed*, Ch. 5 The Queen of Hawaii Raises her Solemn Note of Protest; in *Aloha Betrayed* (Duke, 2006)

*Extra Credit* April 13, 2016 Kēhaulani Kauanui Lecture 3-4:30 pm
Communidad Room, Cross-Cultural Center

Ap. 15


Week 4

Ap. 18 (M) **FILM**, “Nanook of the North”

Ap. 22 (F)


Week 5

Ap. 25 (M) **FILM**, “Matyrs of the Alamo”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Z7w170t6t4

Ap. 27 (W) **Midterm Exam**

PART II: RACE, RIGHTS, AND REPRESENTATION

Ap. 29 (F) Guest Lecture, Tom Wong, Professor of Political Science, UCSD

Chapter 4 “The Labyrinth of Immigration Detention,” in Rights, Deportation and Detention in an Age of Immigration Control. (Stanford, 2015)


Week 6

May 2 (M) **SHORT FILM** by Elvia Mendoza, “Nosotros Tambien Migramos”


*EXTRA CREDIT* Ines Hernandez Avila Lecture, 3:00-4:30 Communidad Room, Cross-Cultural Center
May 6 (F)

“Nadine Naber, Arab Americans and US Racial Formations” in Jamal and Naber, Race and Arab Americans After 9/11 (Syracuse, 2008)


Week 7  (Section Assignment #2 due)

May 9 (M) FILM: The Road to Guantanamo
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_HCw-5Qnm8c


May 13 (F) Amaney Jamal, “Civil Liberties and the Otherization of Arab and Muslim Americans” in A. Jamal and N. Naber, Race and Arab Americans Before and After 9/11 (Syracuse, 2008)

Week 8

May 16 (M) FILM: The Ghosts of Abu Ghraib
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGpaOp6_I7M

May 18 (W)

Hazel Carby, “A Strange and Bitter Crop: The Spectacle of Torture”

May 20 (F)

Angela Davis, Ch. 5 “The Prison-Industrial Complex” in Are Prisons Obsolete? (Seven Stories Press, 2003)

Week 9  (Section Assignment #3 due)

May 23 (M) FILM: Grace Lee Boggs: American Revolutionary; Boggs, Living For Change (Minnesota, 1998) Intro, Ch. 1, Ch. 4

May 27  (F)


Ch. 4 “Histories and Mythologies” in Vikram Chandra. Geek Sublime (Graywolf, 2014)

Week 10

May 30  Memorial Day, No Class

June 1  (W) FILM, Pirates of Silicon Valley; http://www.veoh.com/watch/v46093745wbEGkakh

June 3  (F) review; LAST DAY OF CLASS

OTHER EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

Eric Tang: "Unsettled: The Refugee in the Hyperghetto"
Date: Thursday April 7
Time: 4-6pm
Place: UCSD Cross Cultural Center, Comunidad Room

Scholar–activist Eric Tang will explore themes from his new book, Unsettled: Cambodian Refugees in the NYC Hyperghetto, including the relationship between immigrant communities and African Americans as they experience common and distinct forms of state violence taking shape in America’s inner cities. Tang’s research sits at the intersection of two issues that define the current moment: the international refugee crisis and the resurgent movement against police violence in the urban United States.

Eric Tang is an Assistant Professor in the African and African Diaspora Studies Department and faculty member in the Center for Asian American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. A former community organizer, Tang has published numerous essays on race and urban social movements, including award-winning writing on post-Katrina New Orleans.

EXPLORING THE BORDER WITH PAUL ESPINOSA

Saturday, April 30, 2016

Join us for screenings of Paul Espinosa’s films In The Shadow of The Law (12:30 pm) and Uneasy Neighbors (2:30 pm) at the Museum of Photographic Arts, followed by a 4:30 pm reception and screening of The Border (5:30 pm), culminating with a panel discussion with Paul Espinosa, Norma Iglesias (SDSU) and Sara Solaimani (UCSD) at the San Diego History Center

For details and ticket information, please visit www.mopa.org/Espinosa