

**ETHNIC STUDIES 183**  
**Gender, Race, Ethnicity and Class:**  
**National and Transnational Contexts**

**Professor:** Kirstie A. Dorr, kdorr@ucsd.edu

**Office Location:** Department of Ethnic Studies, SSB 232

**Office Hours:** Tues. and Thurs. 10:15-11:15 am; Wednesdays by appt.

### **Course Description**

This course offers a survey of various theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of race, gender, sexuality and class. Moving beyond the notion that these social categories merely represent “layers of oppression,” we will ask: how are race, gender, sexuality and class co-constitutive in the making of social relations and identities in the US and beyond? In other words, how do these social categories depend on each other for their very meaning and coherence, so that it is impossible to neatly separate them? And, why is it that this impossibility has not prevented many theorists and activists from treating them as discrete categories, often privileging one over the rest?

To engage these questions, we will begin by turning to the terms themselves, attending to particular historical and geographic contexts of their construction: How have ideas about gender, race, sexuality and class been defined by the western law and science, through historical archives, and in the realm of popular culture? How have these constructs differed across territories and regions and how have they changed over time? Next, we will examine a set of case studies that will allow us to connect the construction and codification of social difference to the enactment of violent social projects: colonialism and war; nationalism and eugenics campaigns; globalization, immigration and structural adjustment. By the end of this course, it is my hope that we will have collectively honed a critical vocabulary and analytical framework for understanding the interplay of race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, and class in a variety of socio-political contexts.

### **Course Objectives**

This course will engage will many challenging but worthwhile ideas. Interdisciplinary by design, our reading list includes authors from a number of fields, some of which you may be familiar with, others of which will require patient attention. Please note that our goal in this class will not be to memorize or master a series of clear-cut answers; rather, by engaging in lively debate and learning from fellow colleagues, we aim to hone our ability to ask critical questions so as to further develop our skills as writers, readers, and thinkers.

### **Required Texts**

Required course readings can be viewed and downloaded via the UCSD Library course reserve website: <http://libraries.ucsd.edu/resources/course-reserves/index.html>

### **Accommodations**

I wish to make this class as accessible as possible to all students. If you require accommodation please contact me via email or come by my office hours so that arrangements can be made.

### **Email and Office Hours Policies**

I aim to respond to student emails within 48 hours. While I am happy to address brief inquiries via email, questions that require a longer response should be addressed during office hours. In order to accommodate as many students as possible, individual student appointments during my scheduled office hours will be 15-20 minutes in length.

## Course Requirements

### Assignments

### Grading Scale

Attendance/Participation	20%	94-100	A	73-75	C
Discussion Points	25%	90-93	A-	70-72	C-
Midterm Paper	25%	86-89	B+	66-69	D+
Final Exam	30%	83-85	B	63-65	D
		80-82	B-	60-63	D-
		76-79	C+	0-60	F

- 1) **Attendance and participation (20%):** Class participation and punctual attendance are a crucial component of this course. Students are expected to finish all reading assigned prior to class. Please be prepared to express your own critical questions and critiques of course materials and to participate actively in class discussions. An absence that results from extenuating circumstances will be excused; however, more than two unexcused absence will affect your final grade.
- 2) **Discussion Points (25%)** Each week, with the exemption of those weeks when other assignments are due, students are responsible for the contribution of a “discussion point” that relates to course themes. A discussion point can take the form of a critical question or response to course readings, or an artifact (such as a news article, song or image). Please see the course calendar that follows for a list of due dates. Each DP assignment should be uploaded to the assignments folder on WebCT. Please include your name, the appropriate date, and a concise paragraph about how the question, critical reflection, or artifact that you have chosen relates to the key themes of the correlating week. Do bring a hard copy of the assignment so that you may share your critical questions and observations with your colleagues.
- 3) **Short Paper (Midterm Assignment) (25%):** Midway through the quarter students will be required to write a short paper (approximately 4-6 pages each) in response to a theoretical question generated from course readings and themes. The question for the midterm will be distributed on **Tuesday, Feb. 1st**. Papers must be submitted by **Friday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> by 5pm** (dropbox will be available outside my office, SSB 232. Please note that late papers will not be accepted.
- 4) **Final Paper (30%):** The final exam will consist of a theoretical questions generated from our comprehensive survey of course readings, to be distributed at our final class meeting (Tuesday, March 8th). Students will be expected to craft a response 5-7 pages in length, to be submitted electronically to the Assignments folder on WebCT no later than **Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**. Please note that late exams will not be accepted.
- 5) **Grading Policy:** In order to receive a passing grade in the class, you must complete ***all*** course assignments.

## UNIT ONE: SETTING THE TERMS

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### Week One: Setting the Terms

- Tues. 1/4:
- Introduction
- Thurs. 1/6:
- Evelyn Nakano Glenn, “Integrating Race and Gender”
  - Judith Halberstam, “Gender”
  - Roderick Ferguson, “Race”
- No Discussion Point Due*

### Week Two: Intersections

- Tues. 1/11
- Combahee River Collective, “A Black Feminist Statement”
  - Cherríe Moraga, “Preface”
  - Cherríe Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa, “Introduction”
- Thurs. 1/13
- Deborah K. King. “Multiple Jeopardy, Multiple Consciousness: The Context of a Black Feminist Ideology”
  - Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color”
- Due: Discussion Point 1*

### Week Three: Interventions

- Tues. 1/18
- Siobhan B. Sommerville, “Queer”
  - Rhonda M. Williams, “Living at the Crossroads: Explorations in Race, Nationality, Sexuality and Gender”
- Thurs. 1/20
- Andrea Smith and J. Kēhaulani Kauanui. “Native Feminisms Engage Ethnic Studies”
  - Renya K. Ramirez. “Learning across Differences: Native and Ethnic Studies Feminisms”
- Due: Discussion Point 2*

## UNIT TWO: CASE STUDIES

### Week Four: *The Venus Hottentot*—Imperial Science and the Construction of Difference

- Tues. 1/25
- Bruce Burgett, “Sex”
  - Anne Fausto-Sterling, “Gender, Race, and Nation: The Comparative Anatomy of “Hottentot”
- Thurs. 1/27
- Siobhan B. Somerville, “Scientific Racism and the Emergence of the Homosexual Body”
  - Alice Dreger. “Hermaphrodites in Love: The Truth of the Gonads”
- Due: Discussion Point 3*

### Week Five: *John Gast’s American Progress*—Nationalism and Cultures of US Imperialism

- Tues. 2/1
- Alys Eve Weinbaum, “Nation”
  - Jyoti Puri, “Parades, Flags, and National Pride”

**Thurs. 2/3**

***Due:***  
***Discussion Point 4***

- **Priscilla Wald**, “Terms of Assimilation: Legislating Subjectivity in the Emerging Nation”
- **Amy Kaplan**, “Black and Blue on San Juan Hill”

**Week Six: Rep. John LaBruzzo’s Sterilization Plan—Race, Gender, and Reproductive Rights**

**Tues. 2/8**

- **Nira Yuval-Davis**, “Women and the Biological Reproduction of the Nation”
- **Angela Davis**, “Racism, Birth Control, and Reproductive Rights”

**Thurs. 2/10**

- **Andrea Smith**, “Better Dead than Pregnant”
- **Dorothy Roberts**, “Who May Give Birth to Citizens? Reproduction, Eugenics, and Immigration”
- **Mark Waller**. “LaBruzzo considering plan to pay poor women \$1000 to have tubes tied”

***NO DISCUSSION POINT DUE***

**Friday 2/11:**

*MIDTERM DUE: Please submit your midterm electronically through the Assignments link on WebCT by 5pm Friday 2/11. Late Exams will not be accepted.*

**Week Seven: Race, Gender, and Welfare**

**Tues. 2/15**

- **Anannya Bhattacharjee**, “Private Fists and Public Force: Race, Gender, and Surveillance”

**Thurs. 2/17**

***Due:***  
***Discussion Point 5***

- **Premilla Nadasen**, “Expanding the Boundaries of the Women’s Movement: Black Feminism and the Struggle for Welfare Rights”
- **Dorothy Roberts**, “The Welfare Debate: Who pays for Procreation?”

**Week Eight: Laura Bush’s Nov. 17, 2001 Radio Address—Feminism, Nationalism and War**

**Tues. 2/22**

- **Lila Abu-Lughod**, “Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?”
- **Chandra Mohanty**, “Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses”

**Thurs. 2/24**

***Due:***  
***Discussion Point 6***

- **Nadine Naber**, “So Our History Doesn’t Become Your Future: The Local and Global Politics of Coalition Building Post September 11<sup>th</sup>”
- **Incite! Women of Color Against Violence**. “In the Wake of the Place Crash Assaults”
- **Paola Bacchetta, Tina Campt, Inderpal Grewal, Caren Kaplan, Minoo Moallem, and Jennifer Terry**, “Transnational Feminist Practices Against War: A Statement Written in the Aftermath of 9-11”

**Week Nine: Globalization and the New World Order**

**Tues. 3/1**

- **Laura Ho et al.** “(Dis)Assembling the Rights of Women Workers along the Global Assembly Line: Human Rights and the Garment industry”

- **Lisa Lowe.** "Globalization"
- **Teresa Carrillo,** "Cross-Border Talk: Transnational Perspectives on Labor, Race, and Sexuality"
- **Wahneema Lubiano,** "Talking About the State and Imagining Alliances"

**Thurs. 3/3**

***No Discussion  
Point Due***

**Week Ten: Imagining Alliances**

**Tues. 3/8**

- **Audre Lorde.** "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House"
- **Hong, Grace Kyungwon.** "The Future of Our Worlds: Black Feminism and the Politics of Knowledge in the University Under Globalization."

***FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS TO BE DISTRIBUTED***

**Thurs. 3/10**

***NO CLASS***

**Wed. 3/16**

***FINAL PAPER DUE BY 5:00PM***

## Bibliography

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