Critical Gender Studies 112/ Ethnic Studies 127:  
Sexuality and Nation  
Winter 2011

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 seminar offers an interdisciplinary survey of nation-building and state formation processes in the 19th and 20th century Americas. Course readings and class discussion will be guided by specific attention to how socially constructed categories of difference—particularly gender, race and sexuality—have shaped/continue to shape material boundaries and ideological claims of national belonging. Employing a feminist, anti-racist theoretical framework, we will grapple with the following questions: How might we theorize the relationship between structures of white supremacy and patriarchy and the (re)production of the imperial and/or postcolonial nation? How are the boundaries of the modern nation-state shaped, transformed, and contested by competing raced and gendered claims of (trans)nationalist belonging? If, as many pundits argue, we are currently experiencing a “decline of the nation-state,” then what ghosts of nationalism continue to haunt the raced and gendered structures, states, and citizens of late capitalist globalization?

Course Objectives

In a course that is structured around a vast survey of historically and geographically diverse themes, the sheer scope of our common undertaking—study of national and transnational state and subject formations—may feel formidable at best, or overwhelming at worst. However, please note that our goal in this seminar 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 critics.

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 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. Also, if you prefer to be called by a different name than the one with which you are enrolled, I will also be happy to oblige.

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Discussion Points</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>94-100 A</td>
<td>73-75 C</td>
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<td>90-93 A-</td>
<td>70-72 C-</td>
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<td>86-89 B+</td>
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<td>83-85 B</td>
<td>63-65 D</td>
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<td>80-82 B-</td>
<td>60-63 D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>76-79 C+</td>
<td>0-60 F</td>
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1) **Attendance and participation** (20%): Class participation and punctual attendance are crucial. 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 absences will affect your final grade**.

2) **Discussion Point** (25%) Each week, with the exemption of those weeks when other assignments are due (see the course calendar that follows for a schedule of assignment due dates), 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). 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% each): Students will be required to a short paper (approximately 5-6 pages in length) in response to a theoretical question generated from course readings. Your work will be evaluated on its argumentative and organizational clarity and the extent to which it demonstrates a clear understanding of the key themes outlined in course readings and class discussions. The question for the first midterm will be distributed on Thursday, Jan. 27th and must be submitted in **hard copy** by Tues. Feb. 8th at 5pm. **Please note that late papers will not be accepted.**

4) **Final Exam** (30%): The final exam will consist of a comprehensive theoretical question generated from our survey of course readings, and will 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 **Tuesday, March 15th at 5pm**. **Late exams will not be accepted.**

5) **Grading Policy**: In order to receive a passing grade in the class, students must complete **all** course assignments.
UNIT ONE: SETTING THE TERMS

Week One: Setting the Terms

Tues. 1/4  Introduction
Thurs. 1/6  Keywords
  - Alys Eve Weinbaum, “Nation”
  - Roderick Ferguson, “Race”
  - Judith “Jack” Halberstam, “Gender”

Week Two: Thinking Gender, Sexuality, and Nation

Tues. 1/11  On Nation and Nationalism
  - Nira Yuval-Davis, “Theorizing Gender and Nation”
  - Jyoti Puri, “Parades, Flags, and National Pride”

Thurs. 1/13  Gendering the Nation-state
Due:  - Paul Thomas, “State”
Discussion Point 1  - Linda McDowell, “Gendering the Nation-State”

Week Three: The Unmaking and Making of “America”

Tues. 1/18  Nation-building Through Colonial Expansion
  - Robert Warrior, “Indian”
  - Andrea Smith, “Sexual Violence as a Tool of Genocide”
  - David E. Wilkins, “Indian Peoples Are Nations, Not Minorities”

Thurs. 1/20  National Subjectivity and Property
Due:  - Grace Kyungwon Hong, “The Possessive Individual and Social Death: The Complex Bind of National Subjectivity”
Discussion Point 2  - Grace Kyungwon Hong, “Property”

Week Four: Domestic Interiors—Nationalism and the Heteropatriarchal Family

Tues. 1/25  Imperial Domesticities
  - Amy Kaplan, “Manifest Domesticity”

Thurs. 1/27  Nation-building and the Heteropatriarchal Family
Due:  - Siobhan B. Sommerville, “Queer”
Discussion Point 3  - Roderick Ferguson, “The Nightmares of the Heteronormative”
### Week Five: Reproducing the National Body

**Tues. 2/1**  
**Reproducing the National Body**
- **Nira Yuval-Davis**, “Women and the Biological Reproduction of the Nation”  
- **Angela Davis**, “Racism, Birth Control, and Reproductive Rights”

**Thurs. 2/3**  
**Policing the National Body**
- **Andrea Smith**, “Better Dead than Pregnant”

### Week Six: Race, Sexuality and Immigration

**Tues. 2/8**  
**Queering Immigration**
- **Siobhan Sommerville**. “Sexualized Aliens and the Racialized State: A Queer Reading of the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act”

**Thurs. 2/10**  
**Policing Sexuality, Policing Immigration**
- **Nayan Shah**. “Policing Privacy, Migrants, and the Limits of Freedom.”

### Week Seven: Colonialism/Imperialism/Feminism

**Tues. 2/15**  
**Colonial Gazes**
- **Chandra Mohanty**. “Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses”
- **Vijay Prashad**, “Orientalism”
- **Ania Loomba**. “Situating Colonial and Postcolonial Studies”

**Thurs. 2/17**  
**Imperial Feminisms**
- **Lila Abu-Lughod**, “Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?”
- **Samuel M. Zwemer**, “Introduction” in *Our Moslem Sisters*

### Week Eight: Transnationalisms

**Tues. 2/22**  
**Theorizing Transnationalism**
- **Agnes Lugo-Ortiz et. al.** “Ethnic Studies in an Age of Transnationalism”
- **Ella Shohat**, “Area Studies, Transnationalism, and the Feminist Production of Knowledge”
- **Mani, Lata** “Multiple Mediations: Feminist Scholarship in the Age of Multinational Reception”
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. 2/24</td>
<td><strong>Trans meets Nationalism</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Due:</strong></td>
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<td>• Toby Beauchamp, “Artful Concealment and Strategic Visibility: Transgender Bodies and U.S. State Surveillance After 9/11”</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion Point 6</strong></td>
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<td>Week Nine: Homonationalisms</td>
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<td>Tues. 3/1</td>
<td><strong>Homonormativities</strong></td>
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<td>• Jasbir Puar, “Mapping US Homonormativities”</td>
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<td>Thurs. 3/3</td>
<td><strong>Homonationalisms</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Due:</strong></td>
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<td>• Scott Lauria Morgensen, “Settler Homonationalism: Theorizing Settler Colonialism within Queer Modernities”</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion Point 7</strong></td>
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<td>Week Ten: Imagining Alliances</td>
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<td>Tues. 3/8</td>
<td><strong>Andrea Smith</strong>, “American Studies without America: Native Feminisms and the Nation-State”</td>
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<td>Thurs. 3/10</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS!</strong></td>
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<td><strong>No Discussion Point</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. 3/15</td>
<td>Final Exam Due by 5pm (Dropbox available at SSB 232)</td>
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Bibliography

- Abu-Lughod, Lila. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?" in American Anthropologist; Sep 2002; 104, 3; Research Library Core, pg. 783.
- Incite! Women of Color Against Violence, “Statement on Hurricane Katrina”
- Incite! Women of Color Against Violence, “In the Wake of the Place Crash Assaults”


Waller, Mark. “LaBruzzi considering plan to pay poor women $1000 to have tubes tied” in The Times-Picayune, Tuesday Sept. 23 2008, evening edition.


