

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

Professor: Kirstie A. Dorr, kdorr@ucsd.edu
Readers: Shelley Gutierrez, m2gutier@ucsd.edu
Candace Rice, ctrice@dss.ucsd.edu

Office Hours 12-1pm M/W or by appt.
Department of Ethnic Studies, SSB 232

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 with 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.

Course Requirements

Assignments

Grading Scale

Attendance/Participation	20%	94-100	A	73-75	C
Discussion Points	20%	90-93	A-	70-72	C-
Keywords Assignment	20%	86-89	B+	66-69	D+
Midterm Paper	20%	83-85	B	63-65	D
Final Exam	20%	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) **Keywords Assignment (20%)**: Each student will be asked to choose two keywords that have emerged in course readings and discussion. Students will then prepare a 1-2 page (single-spaced, 12pt. font) encyclopedic entry describing the term's meaning and significance, and how it has been discussed and/or deployed by at least two of the authors that we have read. This assignment should be turned in electronically to the Assignments folder of WebCT no later than **Friday, Oct. 16th** (late assignments will not be accepted). Students keywords will be archived on WebCT to serve as a collective resource for the rest of the quarter.
- 3) **Discussion Point (20%)** 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 and optional prompts. 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.
- 4) **Short Paper (Midterm Assignment) (20%)**: 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 **Friday, October 30th**. Papers must be submitted electronically by **Friday, November 6th at 5pm**. Please note that late papers will not be accepted.
- 5) **Final Exam (20%)**: 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 (Dec. 4th). 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 **Friday, Dec, 11 at 5pm**. Please note that late exams will not be accepted.
- 6) **Grading Policy**: In order to receive a passing grade in the class, you must complete *all* course assignments.

UNIT ONE: SETTING THE TERMS

Week Zero:

Friday 9.25 Introduction

Week One: Setting the Terms

Monday 9.28 • **Howard Winant**, "Race and Racism: Toward a Global Future"
• **Judith Halberstam**, "Gender"

Wednesday 9.30 • **Rosemary Hennesey**, "Class"

Friday 10.2 • **Audre Lorde**, "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House," and "Age, Race, Class, and Sex"
• **Adrienne Rich**, "Notes Toward a Politics of Location"

Discussion Point 1: *Reflect on Lorde's contention that "the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house." Do you agree with this assertion? Who is "the master"? What are his tools? Where is his house? How might our conceptions of masters, tools, and houses shift when conceptualized in different geographic locations/contexts?*

Week Two: Intersections

Monday 10.5 • **Combahee River Collective**, "A Black Feminist Statement"
• **Cherríe Moraga**, "Preface"
• **Cherríe Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa**, "Introduction"

Wednesday 10.7 • **Deborah K. King**, "Multiple Jeopardy, Multiple Consciousness: The Context of a Black Feminist Ideology"

Friday 10.9 • **Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw**, "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color"

Discussion Point 2: *Reflect on how each author distinctly conceptualizes the relationship between race, gender, and class (an intersection, multiple jeopardy, or interlocking oppressions). If you were to create your own metaphor to describe this relational nexus, what might it be?*

Week Three: Interventions

Monday 10.12 • **Siobhan B. Sommerville**, "Queer"
• **Rhonda M. Williams**, "Living at the Crossroads: Explorations in Race, Nationality, Sexuality and Gender"

Wednesday 10.14 • **Evelynn M. Hammonds**, "Black (W)holes and the Geometry of Black

Female Sexuality"

Friday 10.16

- **Chandra Mohanty**, "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses"

Keywords
Assignment due

Instructions TBA

UNIT TWO: CASE STUDIES

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

Monday 10.19

- **Anne Fausto-Sterling**, "Gender, Race, and Nation: The Comparative Anatomy of "Hottentot"

Wednesday 10.21

- **Siobhan B. Somerville**, "Scientific Racism and the Emergence of the Homosexual Body"

Friday 10.23

- **Alice Dreger**. "Hermaphrodites in Love: The Truth of the Gonads"

Discussion Point 3: *Locate a contemporary icon, image or event that invokes scientific or medical knowledge to construct racial/gender/sexual difference.*

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

Monday 10.26

- **Alys Eve Weinbaum**, "Nation"
- **Jyoti Puri**, "Parades, Flags, and National Pride"

Wednesday 10.28

- **Priscilla Wald**, "Terms of Assimilation..."
- **Amy Kaplan**, "Black and Blue on San Juan Hill"

Friday 10.30

- **Mary Pat Brady**, "Border"
- **Eithne Luibhéid**, "Entry Denied: A History of U.S. Immigration Control"

Discussion Point 4: *Locate a contemporary icon, image, song, or news article that exemplifies contemporary US nation-building.*

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

Monday 11.2

- **Nira Yuval-Davis**, "Women and the Biological Reproduction of the Nation"

- **Angela Davis**, "Racism, Birth Control, and Reproductive Rights"

Wednesday 11.4

- **Andrea Smith**, "Better Dead than Pregnant"

Friday 11.6

- **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"

Midterm Due:

Please submit your midterm electronically through the Assignments link on WebCT by 5pm Friday 11.6. Late Exams will not be accepted.

Week Seven: Race, Gender, and Welfare

Monday 11.9

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

Wednesday 11.11

VETERANS DAY- NO CLASS MEETING

- **Dorothy Roberts**, "The Welfare Debate: Who pays for Procreation?"

Friday 11.13

- **Premilla Nadasen**, "Expanding the Boundaries of the Women's Movement: Black Feminism and the Struggle for Welfare Rights"

Discussion Point 5: TBA

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

Monday 11.16

- **Shahnaz Khan**, "Locating the Feminist Voice: The Debate on the Zina Ordinance"

Wednesday 11.18

- **Jasbir Puar and Amit S. Rai**, "Monster, Terrorist, Fag: The War on Terrorism and the Production of Docile Patriots"
- **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"

Friday 11.20

- **Abu-Lughod, Lila**. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?"

Discussion Point 6: TBA

Week Nine: Globalization and the New World Order

Monday 11.23

- **Laura Ho et al.** "(Dis)Assembling the Rights of Women Workers along

the Global Assembly Line: Human Rights and the Garment industry”

- **Lowe, Lisa.** “Globalization”
- **Gary Gereffi, Ronie Garcia-Johnson, Erika Sasser.** “The NGO Industrial Complex”

Wednesday 11.25 **NO CLASS!**

Friday 11.27 **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

Discussion Point **No discussion point due for this week**

Week Ten: Imagining Alliances

Monday 11.30 • **Wahneema Lubiano,** "Talking About the State and Imagining Alliances"

Wednesday 12.2 • **Teresa Carrillo,** “Cross-Border Talk: Transnational Perspectives on Labor, Race, and Sexuality”

Friday 12.4 • **Lisa Duggan,** “Queering the State”

Final Exam: *Exam questions TBA*
Due Friday 12/11
by 5pm

Bibliography

- Abu-Lughod, Lila. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?" in *American Anthropologist* 104(3): 783-790.
- Bacchetta, Paola and 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" (October 2001; posted originally at <http://www.action-tank.org/pfp>).
- Bhattacharjee, Anannya. "Private Fists and Public Force: Race, Gender, and Surveillance" in *Policing the National Body*, Jael Silliman and Anannya Bhattacharjee eds. (Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2002, 1-48).
- Brady, Mary Pat. "Border" in *Keywords of American Cultural Studies*, Bruce Burgett and Glenn Hendler eds. (New York: NYU Press, 2007).
- Carrillo, Teresa. "Cross-Border Talk: Transnational Perspectives on Labor, Race, and Sexuality" in *Talking Visions: Multicultural Feminism in a Transnational Age*, (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1998), 441-449.
- Combahee River Collective. "A Black Feminist Statement" in *Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives*, Carole R. McCann and Seung-Kyung Kim Eds. (New York: Routledge, 2003).
- Critical Resistance and Incite! Women of Color Against Violence, "Gender Violence and the Prison Industrial Complex" in *Color of Violence* (Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2006) 223-226.
- Davis, Angela. "Racism, Birth Control, and Reproductive Rights" in *Feminist Postcolonial Theory*, Reina Lewis and Sara Mills eds. (New York: Routledge, 2003).
- Dreger, Alice. "Hermaphrodites in Love: The Truth of the Gonads" in *Hermaphrodites and the Medical Invention of Sex* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2000).
- Duggan, Lisa. "Queering the State" in *Social Text* no. 39 (Summer 1994) 1-14.
- Fausto-Sterling, Anne. "Gender, Race, and Nation: The Comparative Anatomy of "Hottentot" Women in Europe, 1815-1817" in *Deviant Bodies*, Jennifer Terry and Jacqueline Urla eds. (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1995 19-48.)
- Gereffi, Gary with Ronie Garcia-Johnson and Erika Sasser. "The NGO Industrial Complex" in *Foreign Policy*, No. 125 (Jul. - Aug., 2001), pp. 56-65
- Halberstam, Judith. "Gender" in *Keywords for American Cultural Studies*, Bruce Burgett and Glenn Hendler eds. (New York: NYU Press, 2007).
- Hammonds, Evelyn M. "Black (W)holes and the Geometry of Black Female Sexuality," *differences* 6 (1994): 126-145.
- Hennessey, Rosemary. "Class" in *A Concise Companion to Feminist Theory*, Mary Eagleton ed. (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2003, 53-72).
- Ho, Laura et al. "(Dis)Assembling the Rights of Women Workers along the Global Assembly Line: Human Rights and the Garment industry" In *Global Critical Race Feminisms*, Adrien Katherine Wing ed. (New York: NYU Press, 2000, 377-391).
- Incite! Women of Color Against Violence, "Statement on Hurricane Katrina"
- Incite! Women of Color Against Violence. "In the Wake of the Place Crash Assaults"
- Kaplan, Amy. "Black and Blue on San Juan Hill" in *Cultures of United States Imperialism*, Amy Kaplan and Donald Pease eds. (Durham, NC: Duke UP, 1993).
- Khan, Shahnaz. "Locating the Feminist Voice: The Debate on the Zina Ordinance" in *Feminist Studies* vol. 30 no. 3 (Fall, 2004).
- Lorde, Audre. "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House," and "Age, Race, Class, and Sex" in *Sister/Outsider: Essays and Speeches* (Trumansburg, NY: The Crossing Press, 1984), 110-113.
- Lowe, Lisa. "Globalization" in *Keywords of American Cultural Studies*, Bruce Burgett and Glenn Hendler eds. (New York: NYU Press, 2007).

- Lubiano, Wahneema. "Talking About the State and Imagining Alliances," in Ella Shohat, ed., *Talking Visions: Multicultural Feminism in a Transnational Age*, (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1998), 441-449.
- Luibhéid, Eithne. "Entry Denied: A History of U.S. Immigration control in *Entry Denied: Controlling Sexuality at the Border*. (Minneapolis: U of Minnesota Press, 2002).
- Mohanty, Chandra. "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses" in *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*, Mohanty, Russo and Torres Eds. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991).
- Moraga, Cherríe "Preface" in *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*, Gloria Anzaldúa and Cherríe Moraga eds. (New York: Kitchen Table Press, 1981).
- Moraga, Cherríe and Gloria Anzaldúa, "Introduction" in *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*, Gloria Anzaldúa and Cherríe Moraga eds. (New York: Kitchen Table Press, 1981).
- Nadasen, Premilla. "Expanding the Boundaries of the Women's Movement: Black Feminism and the Struggle for Welfare Rights" in *Feminist Studies* (28 no.2 Summer 2002, 271-301).
- Puar, Jasbir and Amit S. Rai, "Monster, Terrorist, Fag: The War on Terrorism and the Production of Docile Patriots" in *Social Text* vol.72 no. 3 (Fall 2005).
- Puri, Jyoti, "Parades, Flags, and National Pride" in *Encountering Nationalism*. (New York: Blackwell, 1994).
- Rich, Adrienne. "Notes Towards a Politics of Location" in *Feminist Postcolonial Theory*, Reina Lewis and Sara Mills Eds. (New York: Routledge, 2003).
- Roberts, Dorothy. "Who May Give Birth to Citizens? Reproduction, Eugenics, and Immigration" in *Immigrants Out! New Nativism and the Anti-Immigrant Impulse in the United States*, Juan F. Perea ed. (New York: New York UP, 1997).
- Roberts, Dorothy. "The Welfare Debate: Who pays for Procreation?" in *Killing the Black Body* (New York: Pantheon, 1997).
- Smith, Andrea. "Better Dead than Pregnant" in *Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide*. (Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2005).
- Somerville, Siobhan B. "Scientific Racism and the Emergence of the Homosexual Body" in *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, 5 (Oct. 1994): 243-266.
- Waller, Mark. "LaBruzzo considering plan to pay poor women \$1000 to have tubes tied" in *The Times-Picayune*, Tuesday Sept. 23 2008, evening edition.
- Weinbaum, Alys Eve. "Nation" in *Keywords for American Cultural Studies*, Bruce Burgett and Glenn Hendler eds. (New York: NYU Press, 2007).
- Williams, Rhonda M. "Living at the Crossroads: Explorations in Race, Nationality, Sexuality and Gender" in *The House that Race Built*, Wahneema Lubiano Ed. New York: Vintage, 1998
- Winant, Howard. "Race and Racism: Toward a Global Future" in *Ethnic and Racial Studies* Vol. 29 No. 5 September 2006 pp. 986-1003
- Yuval-Davis, Nira. "Women and the Biological Reproduction of the Nation" in *Gender and Nation*. (London: Sage Publications, 1997).
-