

ETHNIC STUDIES 200A: A Genealogy of Critical Racial and Ethnic Studies

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Office Location: Department of Ethnic Studies, SSB 232

Office Hours: Mondays 4-5pm and Wednesdays by appointment

Course Description

This course offers a cross-disciplinary survey of salient analytical approaches to the study of race and ethnicity. We will begin by engaging some foundational debates and themes that have framed the development of the field of Ethnic Studies since its incarnation in the late 1960s. Here, we will pay particular attention to how Ethnic Studies scholars have incorporated, extended, critiqued and challenged dominant modes of theoretical, methodological and disciplinary inquiry, thus generating new perspectives on the study of race and ethnicity. We will then turn to recent critical departures within the field, exploring how postmodern destabilizations of categorical binaries and boundaries have opened the field to new modes and forms of knowledge production. We will conclude with a discussion of emergent approaches and trajectories in Ethnic Studies, asking how the ethnic studies project might engender new political-intellectual positions that respond to ever-shifting global couplings of power and difference.

Required Texts

Books (Available online)

- **Kandice Chuh.** Imagine Otherwise: On Asian American Cultural Critique. Durham, NC: Duke UP, 2003.
- **Michael Omi and Howard Winant.** Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s-1990s. New York: Routledge, 1994 (2nd Edition).

Articles

- Assigned articles will be available as PDF documents on ERes ([http:// reserves.ucsd.edu/ eres/ default.aspx](http://reserves.ucsd.edu/eres/default.aspx))

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.

Course Guidelines

Participation (20%)

As with any graduate seminar, active participation in class discussions is essential. Do master the weekly readings and arrive to seminar prepared to discuss them in detail.

Responses (60%)

Each week you will craft a 900-word response to the assigned readings. These critical commentaries will serve to organize seminar conversation and debate (see guidelines below). Please include at least two discussion questions that put the assigned texts—and, if appropriate, readings from prior weeks—into dialogue.

Student Presentations (20%)

Each week **two-three** students will be responsible for leading our weekly meeting, and each student will lead a seminar **twice** during the semester. See guidelines below.

Guidelines for Seminar Presentations and Response Papers

In your presentations and response papers, do not merely summarize the content of the readings; rather, please reflect critically on the author(s)'s intellectual project, using the following questions as a point of departure:

- What are the central questions that each text aims to address?
- How is the text structured? Describe its theoretical framework, methodological approach(es), and its relation to (inter)disciplinary conventions.
- What kinds of evidence are used to support the text's central arguments, and is this evidence persuasive?
- What are the theoretical and practical implications of the work?
- How do the central formulations of the text relate to issues raised in previous discussions?
- Taken together, what conversation(s) can you trace between the assigned texts? How do these conversations disrupt, challenge, or extend formulations outlined in prior readings?

Reading Schedule

UNIT ONE: FOUNDATIONS

Week One—Hegemony and Racial Formation

- Mon. 9/27** **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).
- Michael Omi and Howard Winant.** Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s-1990s. New York: Routledge, 1994 (2nd Edition). (pgs. 1-112).
- Stuart Hall.** “Gramsci’s Revelance for the Study of Race and Ethnicity” in Critical Dialogues in Cultural Studies, David Morley and Kuan-Hsing Chen eds. London: Routledge, 1996.

Week Two—Beyond the Epiphenomenon: Articulations

- Mon. 10/4** **Stuart Hall.** “Race, Articulation, and Societies Structured in Dominance” in Sociological Theories: Race and Colonialism. Unesco, 1980.
- Cheryl Harris.** “Whiteness as Property”. In Critical Race Theory, ed. Kimberlé Crenshaw, Neil Gotanda, Gary Peller and Kendall Thomas. New York: The New Press, 1995 (257-275).
- Grace Kyungwon Hong.** “The Possessive Individual and Social Death: The Complex Bind of National Subjectivity” in The Ruptures of American Capital: Women of Color Feminism and the Culture of Immigrant Labor. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2006.

Week Three—Intersections and Co-constitutions

- Mon. 10/11** **Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw,** “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color” in *Critical Race Theory*, (New York: The New Press, 1995).
- David Eng.** “Heterosexuality in the Face of Whiteness: Divided Belief in *M. Butterfly*” in Racial Castration: Managing Masculinity in Asian America. Durham, NC: Duke UP, 2001.
- Andrea Smith.** “Sexual Violence as a Tool of Genocide” 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.

Week Four— History and Narrativity: On Silences and Hauntings

- Mon. 10/18** **Avery Gordon.** “not only the footprints but the water too and what is down there” in Ghostly Matters: Haunting and the Sociological Imagination. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008 (2nd Edition).
- Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty.** “Can the Subaltern Speak?” in Guha, Ranajit and Gayatri Spivak. Selected Subaltern Studies. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- Michel-Rolph Trouillot.** “The Power in the Story” in Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History. Boston: Beacon Press, 1997.

Week Five— Popular Culture and Relations of Representation

- Mon. 10/25** **George Lipsitz.** “Popular Culture: This Ain’t No Sideshow” in Time Passages: Collective Memory and American Popular Culture. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2001.
- Stuart Hall.** “What is this ‘black’ in black popular culture?” in Black Popular Culture, Gina Dent ed. New York: The New Press, 1998.
- Lisa Lowe.** “Imagining Los Angeles in the Production of Multiculturalism” in Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Cultural Politics. Durham, NC: Duke UP, 1996.
- Diana Taylor.** “Acts of Transfer” in The Archive and the Repertoire: Performing Cultural Memory in the Americas. Durham, NC: Duke UP, 2003.

UNIT TWO: DEPARTURES

Week Six—What is this “ethnic” in ethnic studies?

- Mon. 11/1** **Kandice Chuh.** Imagine Otherwise: On Asian American Cultural Critique. Durham, NC: Duke UP, 2003.

Week Seven—Queering Ethnic Studies

- Mon. 11/8** **Roderick Ferguson.** “The Nightmares of the Heteronormative.” Journal for Cultural Research 4.4 (October 2000): 419 – 444.
- Gayatri Gopinath.** “Impossible Desires: An Introduction” in Impossible Desires: Queer Diasporas and South Asian Public Cultures. Durham: Duke UP, 2005. 1-28.

- Evelynn Hammonds.** “Black (W)holes and the Geometry of Black Female Sexuality.” Differences 6.2-3 (1994): 126-145.
- Nayan Shah.** “Policing Privacy, Migrants, and the Limits of Freedom.” Social Text 84-85 23.3-4 (2005): 275-284.

Week Eight—On Race and Nation: Ethnic Studies Meets Native American Studies

- Mon. 11/15** **J. Kēhaulani Kauanui.** “Introduction: Got Blood?” in Hawaiian Blood: Colonialism and the Politics of Sovereignty and Indigeneity. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2008.
- Andrea Smith and J. Kēhaulani Kauanui.** “Native Feminisms Engage Ethnic Studies” in American Quarterly, Volume 60, Number 2, June 2008, pp. 241-249.
- Andrea Smith.** “American Studies without America: Native Feminisms and the Nation-State” in American Quarterly, Volume 60, Number 2, June 2008, pp. 309-315.
- David E. Wilkins.** “Indian Peoples Are Nations, Not Minorities” in American Indian Politics and the American Political System. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2010 (3rd edition).

Week Nine—Transnationalizing Ethnic Studies

- Mon. 11/22** **Brady, Mary Pat.** “Introduction” in Extinct Lands, Temporal Geographies: Chicana Literature and the Urgency of Space. Durham, NC: Duke UP, 2002.
- Agnes Lugo-Ortiz et. al.** “Ethnic Studies in an Age of Transnationalism” in PMLA, Volume 122, Number 3, May 2007, pp. 805–814 (10).
- Katharyne Mitchell.** 1997. “Transnational Discourse: Bringing Geography Back In.” Antipode 29 (2): 101-114.
- Winant, Howard.** “Race and racism: Towards a Global Future” in Ethnic and Racial Studies, 29:5, 2006 pp.986 — 1003.

Week Ten—New Directions

- Mon. 11/29** **WRAP UP:** looking back, thinking ahead