

Professor Curtis Marez
Tuesdays, 9:30-12:50, SSB 253
Office Hours: W 10-11:30, Th 11-12:30, SSB 224

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

This course offers a cross-disciplinary survey of salient critical approaches to the study of race and ethnicity, starting with foundational themes and debates and extending to work representing the current state of the field. In each case our discussions are organized around key analytical terms that help define Ethnic Studies theories and methods.

Readings. The majority of course readings are available for download via Roger (the UCSD library data base) and/or Melvyl (the UC system wide library data base). In a few cases readings will be made available as electronic reserves, marked “ER” in the schedule of assignments.

Accommodations. I wish to make this course as accessible as possible to students with disabilities or medical conditions that may affect 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 be happy to oblige.

Assignments

--Participation (20%)

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

--Responses (60%)

Each week you will craft a 900-word response to the assigned readings, due to me via email before each seminar. 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.

--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, don't just summarize the content of the readings; 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 challenge or extend formulations outlined in prior readings?

9/27 Introduction

10/4 Formations

Michael Omi and Howard Winant, Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s-1990s, 2nd Edition, 1-112 (available for download via Melvyl)

Stuart Hall, "Gramsci's Relevance for the Study of Race and Ethnicity," Journal of Communication Inquiry (1986) 10.2: 5-27 (available for download via Roger).

10/11 Articulations

Hall, "On Postmodernism and Articulation: An Interview with Stuart Hall," Journal of Communication Inquiry 10.2 (1986): 45-60 (available for download via Roger)

Cheryl Harris, "Whiteness as Property," Harvard Law Review 106.8 (June, 1993): 1707-1791 (available for download via JSTOR, Roger).

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 (ER).

10/18 Intersections

Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color," Stanford Law Review 43.6 (July, 1991): 1241-1299 (available for download via JSTOR, Roger).

Norma Alarcon, "Conjugating Subjects: The Heteroglossia of Essence and Resistance," An Other Tongue (ER)

Melani McAlister, "A Virtual Muslim is Something to Be," American Quarterly 62.2 (June, 2010): 221-231 (available for download via Project Muse, Roger).

10/25 Transnational

Laura Briggs, Gladys McCormick, and J.T. Way, "Transnationalism: A Category of Analysis," American Quarterly 60.3 (September 2008): 625-648 (available for download via Roger)

Agnes Lugo-Ortiz et. al., "Ethnic Studies in an Age of Transnationalism," PMLA 122.3 (May 2007): 805-814 (available for download via Roger).

Jodi Kim, "An 'Orphan' with Two Mothers: Transnational and Transracial Adoption, the Cold War, and Contemporary Asian American Cultural Politics," American Quarterly 61.4 (December, 2009): 855-880 (available for download via Roger).

11/1 Temporalities

James Snead, "On Repetition in Black Culture," Black American Literature Forum 15.4 (Winter, 1981): 146-54 (available for download via Roger).

Gayatri Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" (ER)

Jose Muñoz, Cruising Utopia (selections, ER)

11/8 Indigenous

Paul Lai and Lindsey Claire Smith, "Introduction," Special Issue: Alternative Contact: Indigeneity, Globalism, and American Studies, American Quarterly 62.3 (September 2010): 406-436 (available for download via Roger).

Andrea Smith and J. Kēhaulani Kauanui, "Native Feminisms Engage American Studies," American Quarterly 60.2 (June 2008): 241-249.

Andrea Smith, "American Studies without America: Native Feminisms and the Nation-State," American Quarterly 60. 2 (June, 2008): 309-315 (available For download via Roger).

11/15 Queer

Deborah Vargas, "Borderland Bolerista: The Licentious Lyricism of Chelo Silva," Feminist Studies 34.1-2 (Spring/Summer, 2008): 173-197 (available for download via Roger).

Roderick A. Ferguson, "The Relevance of Race for the Study of Sexuality," A Companion to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies, edited by George E. Haggerty and Molly McGarry (ER)

Scott Lauria Morgensen, "Settler Homonationalism: Theorizing Settler Colonialism within Queer Modernities," GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies 16.1 (2010): 105-131(available for download via Roger).

11/22 Digital

Gary Hall, "The Digital Humanities Beyond Computing: A Postscript," *Culture Machine* 12 (2011), <http://www.culturemachine.net/index.php/cm/issue/current>

Sharon Daniels, "Public Secrets," Vectors: Journal of Technology in a Dynamic Vernacular, <http://vectors.usc.edu/projects/index.php?project=57>

Minoo Maollem, "Nation on the Move," Vectors: Journal of Technology in a Dynamic Vernacular, <http://vectors.usc.edu/projects/index.php?project=83>

11/29 WRAP UP: looking back, thinking ahead