

Ethnic Studies 150/ Critical Gender Studies 150
Visuality, Sexuality and Race Syllabus
Fall 2014

Professor: Daphne V. Taylor-García, dtg@ucsd.edu
Class: Tuesday/Thursday 5:00—6:20pm at Center 201
Office Location: Department of Ethnic Studies, SSB 226
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 3:30pm—4:30pm and by appointment

Course Description:

I'm not given a second chance. I am overdetermined from the outside. I
am the slave not to the "idea" others have of me, but to my appearance.
-Frantz Fanon

Visuality is a specific term to refer to the way in which power relations construct our visual field. In other words, how we make sense of what we "see" is mediated by existing power relations. Visuality classifies through the power to name, categorize and define, thus producing what is legible. This system of classification is a means of social organization that began with the *casta* system and plantation slavery, but is now structural in its reproduction and expansion of colonial effects such as racial profiling and the coloniality of gender. Visuality also speaks to the *naturalization* of this system of classification that has serious immediate and long-term material consequences: it functions to both renew power relations and preempt colonial subjects from organizing for their collective interests. For this reason presenting a counternarrative to visuality has been central to queer of color critique.

Required Texts:

Books can be purchased at the UCSD Bookstore:

Frantz Fanon. *Black Skin, White Masks*. New York: Grove Press, 2008.

Jacqueline Martinez. *Phenomenology of Chicana Experience and Identity*.
Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2000.

All other course readings can be viewed and downloaded via TED.

- Please bring copies of the readings to class.
- Please note: Readings may be edited or added depending on class discussions.

Accommodations:

I would like to ensure this class is accessible to everyone. Please contact me as soon as possible if you require any specific accommodations for a disability or medical reason.

Course Requirements:

Reader Response: 10%

Write a response to the readings in Unit 1. You can discuss what you found interesting, what questions were raised for you, what you disagreed with, etc.

Précis (three of them): 10% each = 30%

Please see TED under the “instructions” tab for specific guidelines on how to write a précis.

Special Event: 10%

Attend a special event relevant to the course hosted by Ethnic Studies, Critical Gender Studies, the Black Studies Project, or the Chicano/a~Latino/a Arts and Humanities Program. Write a 1pg report of what you learned or what questions were raised for you from the event. Assignment is due within one week of the event's date.

Participation: 20%

Please see below.

Final Paper: 20%

Write a 5 to 7-page reflection paper thinking through visibility, sexuality, and race based on the course, referencing a minimum of three (3) texts from the syllabus. Footnote when necessary and make sure to include your works cited as a sixth page.

Presentation: 10%

Create a 5-7 minute presentation based on your final paper. Feel free to draw from any of your written assignments from the class, or bring in additional visual material.

Attendance/Participation:

Seminar style classes are discussion based. So while I will lecture to help elucidate, contextualize or elaborate a particular concept, it is also expected that students will come to class ready to engage in a discussion.

Please arrive in class having completed the assigned readings for the day. Informed and engaged discussion is a critical part of the learning process and everyone is, of course, expected to contribute.

Grading Policy:

Students must complete all assignments to get a passing grade in the class.

All submitted assignments should be double-spaced in 12pt font Times New Roman or equivalent.

Schedule:

October 2

Welcoming and Introductions

UNIT 1

Brief Historical Context

Week 1

October 7

Ilona Katzew. *Excerpt from Casta Painting*

October 9

Ida B. Wells. <http://dig.lib.niu.edu/gildedage/idabwells/pamphlets.html>

Angela Davis, "Rape, Racism, and the Myth of the Black Rapist."

Week 2

October 14

Eithne Luibheid. "Looking like a Lesbian: The Organization of Sexual Monitoring at the US/Mexico Border." **Due: 2-page reader response**

UNIT 2

Visuality, Sexuality, and Race: Defining a Phenomenological Approach

October 16

Judith Butler. "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay on Phenomenology and Feminist Theory."

Week 3

October 21

Sara Ahmed. *Excerpt from Queer Phenomenology*

October 23

Maurice Merleau-Ponty. *Excerpt from Phenomenology of Perception*

Week 4

October 28

Jean-Paul Sartre. *Excerpt from Being and Nothingness*

Due: 2 page précis of Sartre

October 30

Frantz Fanon. *Black Skin, White Masks*. Pages xi—44

Week 5

November 4

Fanon cont'd. Pages 45—88

November 6

Fanon cont'd. Pages 89—184

Week 6

November 11

Veteran's Day

November 13

Fanon cont'd. Pages 185—206

Due: 3 page précis of Fanon

UNIT 3

Phenomenology of Experience and Identity

Week 7

November 18

Rory Crath. "Reading Fanon in 'Homosexual Territory': Towards a Queering of Queer Pedagogy."

November 20

Henry S. Rubin. "Phenomenology as Method in Trans Studies."

Week 8

November 25

Jacqueline Martinez. *Phenomenology of Chicana Experience and Identity*. Pages 1—31

Keyword: Semiotics

November 27

Thanksgiving

Week 9

December 2

Martinez cont'd Pages 33—80

December 4

Martinez cont'd Pages 81—133

Due: 3 page précis of Martinez

UNIT 4

The Students Teach!

Week 10

December 9

Presentations

December 11

Presentations continued

Final: 5-7 minute presentation based on final paper. Final paper is to be 5-7 pages.

Final Papers Due December 15th by 1pm at SSB 226.