

Ethnic Politics in America

ETHNIC STUDIES 151

HSS 1315

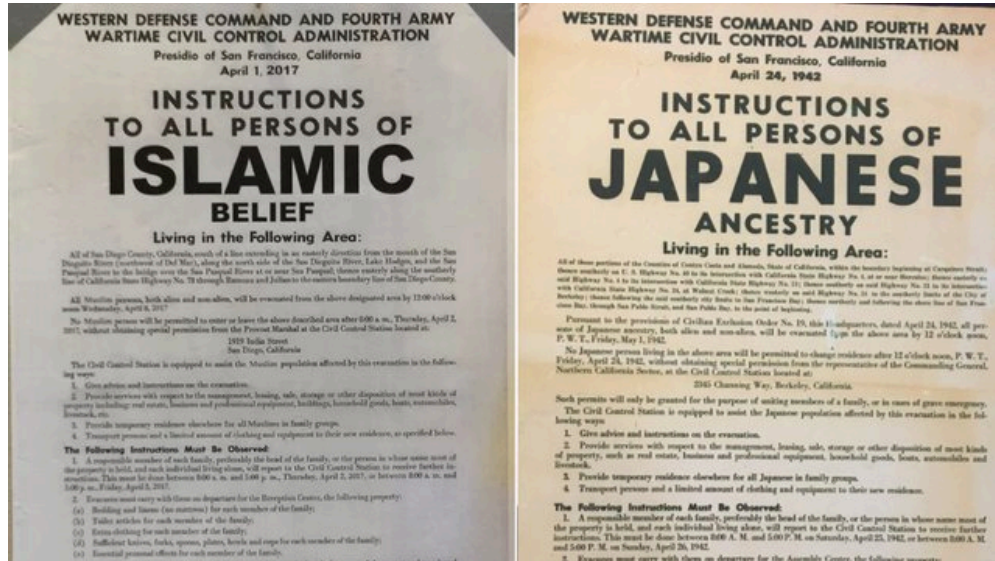
MWF 12:00-12:50PM

Dr. Lisa Ho

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Office Hours: M 3:30-4:30 & By Appointment

Office: Cubicle #4 in the East Commons of Geisel Library (2nd Floor)



The Course Description

This course examines how the specificities of ethnic identification and membership has challenged the confining logics of race. The course provides a snapshot into the various ethnic groups that constitute the United States and the different ways in which their simultaneous racialization and ethnic affiliation has framed their experiences around immigration, labor, and cultural representation. In other words, this course attempts to answer the following questions: how is ethnicity politicized? If race is a deployed as a category to differentiate and subordinate then how do we utilize the specificities of ethnic membership and identification in subversive and radical ways? The course also brings attention to how the processes of assimilation are challenged and complicated by the hegemonic force of whiteness and its attendant privileges. The goal of the course is to illuminate how ethnicity has been politicized to build and unearth spaces of belonging, care, and liberation.

Learning Goals

1. Students should be able to define ethnicity and politics and how these meanings have shifted over time to fulfill different sociopolitical projects and the demands of identity-based politics.
2. Students are expected to be able to critically analyze assigned readings in a thoughtful manner that includes the following: making connections across texts, identifying course themes, and constructing unique arguments of their own based on lectures, discussions, and other related readings.
3. Students will be encouraged to collaborate with their peers in productive and constructive ways.

Required Readings

All readings will be posted on the TED course page.

Assignments

Attendance & Participation: 10 Points

Weekly Assignments: 30 Points

Midterm: 20 Points

Final Project: 40 Points

Attendance & Participation: Your attendance is required. You are allowed miss two days of class with no explanation or an excuse. If you miss more than two classes, your grade for attendance and participation will be lowered by one point (or a 1/3 of grade) each time. If you are experiencing extenuating circumstances, please speak with me privately to discuss alternative ways you can make up your missing time.

Weekly Assignments: Each week you will be required to post on TED. You have three options for a weekly post: a discussion question, a comment, or a current event connection. Each post must be at least 100 words. Here are the following instructions for each option:

1. Discussion Question: Your question needs to be detailed and should not be open-ended. To help with the specificity of your question, you are required to provide a passage directly from the reading. Use the quoted passage to demonstrate the reasoning for your question. Your question should encourage discussion amongst your classmates.
2. Comment: Like the question option, you need to provide context to your comment via a specific reading passage. A comment can include making connections across readings, larger course themes, and/or terms. You may also analyze the passage to build your comment.
3. Current Event Connection: For this option, you must provide a hyperlink to a text that features your current event connection. Explain how your current event applies to the reading by providing a specific reading passage. Lastly, using that reading passage and hyperlink, explain what the exact connection is and the significance.

HOWEVER, for **Weeks 8, 9, 10**, you'll have a specific prompt indicated on the syllabus. These posts are worth the same amount of points. Please keep track of your assignments via the syllabus.

Weekly Assignments are due EVERY THURSDAY BY NOON on TED unless stated otherwise by the instructor. Please post your assignment accordingly under each corresponding week. Assignments are graded based on completion. THERE ARE NO MAKE-UPS FOR WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS.

Midterm: The midterm will be conducted in-class during week five. The midterm will be an essay that is based on one of the key themes of the course.

Final Project: You will be required to create an "infographic" detailing the different demographic information of an ethnic group of your choosing. You will also be required to write a five-page essay detailing the history and contemporary status of your ethnic group. More details to follow during week three.

No Technology Policy

Laptops, tablets, and/or cell phones cannot be used during class session unless indicated by the instructor. As such, please print and bring your readings to class.

Class Etiquette

"Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always."

WEEK ONE: October 1, 3, 5

What is the purpose of ethnicity? How is ethnicity politicized?

"Ethnicity" (Henry Yu)

"Politics" (Janelle Wong)

"White Racial and Ethnic Identity in the United States" (Monica McDermott and Frank L. Samson)

Weekly Assignment

Standard TED Post: Question, Comment or Current Event

WEEK TWO: October 8, 10, 12

What is the purpose of ethnicity? How is ethnicity politicized? (Continued)

"WHAT IS INDIAN ABOUT YOU?": A Gendered, Transnational Approach to Ethnicity (Monisha Das Gupta)

"Diasporic Consciousness: Theorizing Black Pan-Ethnic Identity and Interracial Politics" (Candis Watts Smith)

Weekly Assignment

Standard TED Post: Question, Comment or Current Event

WEEK THREE: October 15, 17, 19

Immigration: Difference, Division, and Deportation

"Will I Know Anyone at This Party? (This American Life Podcast)

"Deporting Cambodian Refugees: Youth Activism, State Reform, and Imperial Statecraft" (Soo Ah Kwon)

Weekly Assignment

Standard TED Post: Question, Comment or Current Event

WEEK FOUR: October 22, 24, 26

Immigration: Difference, Division, and Deportation (Continued)

"Introduction" & "The Contradictions of Ethnic Politics: 1940-1950" (David G. Gutiérrez)

Weekly Assignment

Standard TED Post: Question, Comment or Current Event

WEEK FIVE: October 29, 31 & November, 2

The Ties That Bind: Intimacy and the Politics of Ethnic Identification

MIDTERM—ON NOVEMBER 2ND (FRIDAY)

"Punjabi Sikh-Mexican American community fading into history" (Benjamin Gottlieb)

"Dancers Honor California's Mexican-Punjabi Heritage" (YouTube Video)

"From Enemy to Alien to Assimilating American: Yoshiko deLeon and the Mixed Marriage Policy of the Japanese American Incarceration" (Jennifer Ho)

Weekly Assignment

Standard TED Post: Question, Comment or Current Event

WEEK SIX: November 5, 7, 9

The Labor of Narration & Afro-Latin@

"Introduction" from *The Afro-Latin@ Reader: History and Culture in the United States* (Miriam Jiménez Román Juan Flores)

"Family Ties: The Lived Experiences of Addie and Nelly McBride" (Christina Green)

Weekly Assignment

Standard TED Post: Question, Comment or Current Event

WEEK SEVEN: November 14, 16

(NO CLASS ON MONDAY—Veteran's Day)

Cultural Representation & Ethnicity

"Negotiating identity and power in transnational cultural consumption: Korean American youths and the Korean Wave" (Jung-Sun Park)

Zoe Saldana or Zoë Saldaña?: cinematic dominicanidad and the Hollywood star (Keara K. Goin)

Weekly Assignment

Standard TED Post: Question, Comment or Current Event

WEEK EIGHT: NO CLASSES THIS WEEK (Thanksgiving Break)

Weekly Assignment

Provide an update on your final project. 200 words.

WEEK NINE: November 26, 28, 30

Migrant Kitchen, Season 2 on Amazon Prime or on KCET

*Watch all four episodes

Weekly Assignment

Write a response that identifies a common theme(s)/thread(s) between all four episodes. 250 words.

WEEK TEN: December 3, 5, 7

The Time is Now: Political Importance of Interethnic Connections

"Muslim ban: Japanese and Muslim Americans join forces" (Massoud Hayoun)

"Racism Masquerading as Nationalism: Wars, Japanese-Americans, and Arab-Americans" (Ezra Yoo-Hyeok Lee)

Weekly Assignment

Write a 200-word response reflecting on what you learned in the class.

If you get to this point of the syllabus, I congratulate you! If you know one of the three Real Housewives franchise I started watching this summer, email me, and you will receive some of that good old extra credit 😊 I'll reveal this horrifying fact about myself before the end of week one.