

Ethnic Studies 100
Summer Session I
July 3, 2006 – August 5, 2006

Theories and Methods of Ethnic Studies

Instructor: Theo Verinakis
Time: TuTh 2-4:50
Location: Solis 110
Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30-2, Thursday 12:30-2, or by appointment
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Course Description

In this course, we will trace various scientific accounts of post-colonial and post-slavery societies, with a particular focus upon how they construct the figure of the racial subject. We will read anthropological and sociological formulations of race and ethnicity to identify how they describe racial subjection, how they characterize the racial privileged and racial subaltern subject, and the strategies of emancipation they suggest. Furthermore, we will also examine how racial subaltern scholars who have attempted to identify the basis of racial subjections and proposed strategies for racial emancipation have appropriated their tools in critical writings. Out of this epistemological mapping of disciplinary constructions of the racial subject, we will discuss and critique the Ethnic Studies project by focusing upon how its appropriation and reconfiguring of the tools formulated in previous moments of racial knowledge.

Course Objective

The objective of this course is to develop critical thinking skills and apply them to the discussion of race and ethnicity. The foundation of the course is built upon the concepts of exchange and discussion. The students are required to be actively engaged in the texts (books and films) to promote a discussion of how race has informed the production of knowledge. The focus of this course is not for the regurgitation of facts, but rather, the development of your analytic abilities to challenge assumptions and perceptions that are taken as “evidence” and “reality” when discussing race.

Required Texts

Capitalism and Slavery by Eric Williams
Racism, Sexism, Power, and Ideology by Collette Guillaumin
Racism (Key Ideas) by Robert Miles
The Sociological Imagination by C. Wright Mills
ETHN 100 reader or Electronic Reserve

Course Requirements

-Active participation/learning: This course, as stated earlier, will be organized on a lecture-discussion basis. We will be dealing with very difficult material and the success of the course depends on your active participation and attendance.

- Critical Essay (5-6 pages)
- Midterm Exam-short essay (take home)
- Final Exam (in class)

Grading

In order to pass this course all requirements must be met. Any missed assignment will result in a failing grade, and this includes attendance and participation. Late work will not be accepted. You must turn in all your assignments on time to pass the course. Regardless of whether or not you are taking this course for a grade or P/NP, you must turn in all assignments and receive at least 70%. Grades will be calculated as such:

Participation/Attendance: 10% (Quality, not Quantity. In other words, participation is not calculated by how many times you speak in class, but rather what your analysis contributes to the conversation. Students must show engagement with the material)

Critical Essay: 30%

Midterm: 30%

Final: 30%

Policies

- Always bring the text(s) with which we are currently working from to class.
- All readings must be completed before class.
- Make sure to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and film and how they relate to the process of racialization.
- All written work must be typed in 12 pt., Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins.
- For proper paper format and citation guidelines, please refer to an MLA stylebook.
- Paginate all work and staple all work in the upper left-hand corner.
- Proof read all your work before turning in your assignments.
- All assignments must be turned into me in person.
- Make sure to turn off all phones and pagers during class.

Course Schedule

(subject to change)

Week 1

Tues 7.4 Introduction,

Film-"Birth of a Nation," D.W. Griffith

Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery*

Thur 7.6 Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery*

Finish "Birth of a Nation"

Week 2

Tues 7.11 Collette Guillaumin, *Racism, Sexism, Power, and Ideology*

Film-"Ragtime," Milos Forman

Thur 7.13 Collette Guillaumin, *Racism, Sexism, Power, and Ideology*

Film-"Ragtime," Milos Forman

Week 3

Tues 7.18 Robert Miles, *Racism (Key Ideas)*
Film- "To Kill a Mockingbird," Robert Mulligan

Thur 7.20 Robert Miles, *Racism (Key Ideas)*
Film- "To Kill a Mockingbird," Robert Mulligan
Midterm Essays due in class

Week 4

Tues 7.22 C. Wright Mills, *The Sociological Imagination*
Film- "They Died with Their Boots On," Raoul Walsh

Thur 7.27 C. Wright Mills, *The Sociological Imagination*
Film- "They Died with Their Boots On," Raoul Walsh
Critical Essays due in Class

Week 5

Tues 8.1 Georg Simmel, "The Stranger"
Robert Park, "The Problem of Cultural Differences"
Robert Park, "The Nature of Race Relations"
Film- "Dirty Pretty Things," Stephen Frears

Thur 8.3 Ross Frank, "They Conceal a Malice Most Refined"
Denise Silva, "Bahia, Pelo, Negro": Can the Subaltern (Subject of Raciality) Speak?
Yen Le Espiritu, "Stretching Gender, Family and Community Boundaries"
Film (Clips)- "La Haine," Mathieu Kassovitz" and "Shadows," John Cassavetes

Final