

**Introduction to Ethnic Studies:
Race and Ethnic Relations**

Professor: Yen Le Espiritu

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Office Hours: Wed 11-1 pm and Fri 12:30 -1:30

Class Meets: MWF, 2-2:50pm in Peterson 108

Graduate Teaching Assistants: Bing Aradanas, Martha Escobar, Myrna Garcia, Angela Kong, Madel Ngiraingas, Traci Voyles

Course Description

Despite the deep historical roots of visions of the “assimilation” of immigrants, the “extinction” of indigenous peoples, and the emergence of a “color-blind” society, the social construction of race and ethnicity continues to exert potent social and political effects in the 21st century. This course introduces students to the basic social and theoretical issues in the field of race and ethnic relations, paying particular attention to the complex relationship between race, rights, and citizenship. We will be attentive to the intersectionality of race, class, and gender; that is, to the ways in which these categories operate with and through each other to produce and maintain social inequality.

Required Texts

Available at UCSD Groundworks (452-9625):

- 1) Mae M. Ngai. 2004. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Princeton University Press.
- 2) Lorena Oropeza. 2005. *Razi Si! Guerra No! Chicano Protest and Patriotism During the Viet Nam War Era*. University of California Press.
- 3) Thomas Shapiro. 2004. *The Hidden Cost of Being African American: How Wealth Perpetuates Inequality*. Oxford University Press.
- 4) Monisha Das Gupta. 2006. *Unruly Immigrants: Rights, Activism, and Transnational South Asian Politics in the United States*. Duke University Press.
- 5) Course Reader – Available on E-Reserves (<http://reserves.ucsd.edu/eres/default.aspx>)

Evaluation: Participation and attendance in sections	20%
Assignment # 1: Due 4/20 (3 rd week)	15%
Midterm Exam: May 4 (5 th week)	20%
Assignment # 2: Due 5/25 (8 th week)	15%
Final Exam: June 11	30%

Note: you must complete all course requirements in order to earn a passing grade for the course.

- **Participation grade:** The class participation grade will be calculated based on your regular involvement in your sections with the Graduate Teaching Assistants. You are responsible for staying abreast of the reading materials each week so that you can fully participate in your section discussions. Discussions will also cover lectures and films. *Note: You must receive a passing grade in section to pass the course. Section grades will be assigned by the TAs, in consultation with the Professor.*
- **Assignments # 1 and # 2:** Assignment prompts will be given to you one week prior to the due date. They are due in class on the dates indicated above.
- **Midterm and Final Examinations:** Both will be in-class tests requiring the use of course readings, lectures, section discussions, and films to answer questions.

ADA Statement: If you have a disability or condition that compromises your ability to complete the requirements of this course, you should inform me as soon as possible of your needs. I will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate you. If, as a result of a disability, you cannot accept the content or terms of this syllabus, you need to notify me in writing within one week of receiving it.

Policy on Late Papers and Make-up Assignments: Excepting emergencies, I do not allow late papers and do not allow make-up assignments. You have the syllabus well enough in advance to know what is due and when.

Ground Rules: The number one ground rule to which we will all adhere is to engage in respectful and considerate debate and discussion in the classroom. Abusive and harsh language will not be tolerated. These ground rules are reflected in the UCSD Principles of Community, which we are all expected to follow (see <http://www-vcba.ucsd.edu/principles.htm>).

Cheating and Plagiarism: Cheating and/or plagiarism are not tolerated behaviors at UCSD. If you are caught cheating on an exam or quiz, it will result in a failing grade and your infraction will be referred to the dean of your college for disciplinary action. If there is any suspicion that your paper or assignments have been plagiarized, the case will be forwarded to the dean of your college for further investigation and appropriate disciplinary action.

Reading and Lecture Schedule

Unit One The Social Construction of Race, Citizenship, and the Nation-State

Week 1. April 2, 4, 6—The Myth of “Immigrant America”

Omi and Winant, “Racial Formation,” pp. 53-76 in *Racial Formation in the United States* (E-Reserve)

Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects*, pp. 1-14.

David E. Wilkins, Ch. 2, “Indian Peoples Are Nations, Not Minorities,” (pp. 41-62), in *American Indian Politics and the American Political System* (E-Reserve).

Week 2. April 9, 11, 13—The Making of Racial Difference

Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects*, Part I, pp. 17-90

Video: “Ethnic Notions”

Week 3. April 16, 18, 20—“Imported Colonialism”: Race and Labor

Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects*, Part II, pp. 93-166

Note: Assignment #1 due 4/20

Week 4. April 23, 25, 27—War, Nationalism, and Alien Citizenship

Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects*, Part III, pp. 167-224

Video: “A Dollar a Day, a Dime a Dance”

Week 5. April 30, May 2, 4—The Politics of Protest and Reform

Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects*, Ch. 7, pp. 227-264

Lorena Oropeza, *Raza Si! Guerra No!*, Intro & Chs. 1-2, pp. 1-79

Note: Midterm—May 4

Unit Two Race, Rights, and Citizenship in Post-Civil Rights U.S.

Week 6. May 7, 9, 11—Inequality, Activism, and Citizenship

Lorena Oropeza, *Raza Si! Guerra No!* Chs. 3-5, pp. 80-182.

Noenoe K. Silva, “Ku’e! Hawaiian Women’s Resistance to the Annexation, pp. 4-15 in *Social Process in Hawaii*, Vol. 38 (1997). (E-Reserve)

Video: “Chicano! : History of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement”

Week 7. May 14, 16, 18—The Sedimentation of Racial Inequality

Melvin Oliver and Thomas Shapiro, Chs. 1-2 in *Black Wealth/White Wealth*, pp. 12-52. (E-Reserve)

Thomas Shapiro, *The Hidden Cost*, Introduction and Chs. 1-3, pp. 1-84

Week 8. May 21, 23, 25—The Contingency of Citizenship

Thomas Shaprio, *The Hidden Cost*, Chs. 4-7, and Conclusion, pp. 87-210.

Monisha Das Gupta, *Unruly Immigrants*, Introduction & Chs. 1-2, pp. 1-81.

Note: Assignment # 2 due May 25

Video: “Eating Welfare”

Week 9. May 30, June 1— Rights, Activism, and Transnational Politics

Note: Monday, May 28—Memorial Day

Monisha Das Gupta, *Unruly Immigrants*, Chs. 3-5, pp. 82-207

Week 10. June 4, 6, 8—Denaturalizing Citizenship

Monisha Das Gupta, *Unruly Immigrants*, Ch. 6 & Conclusion, pp. 208-259.

Leti Volpp. “The Citizen and the Terrorist.” *UCLA Law Review* 49, 2002 (**E-Reserve**)

Smith, Linda Tuhiwai, Chapter 6 in *Decolonizing Methodologies : Research and Indigenous Peoples*, (Zed Books, 1999). (**E-Reserve**)