

ETHN 1C

Introduction to Ethnic Studies:

***Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States* (Spring 2012)**

Professor: Randall Williams

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Office Hours: Monday 2-330 and Wednesday 3-430

Office Location: SSB 245

Class meetings: MWF 1-150pm

TAs: Lila Sharif; Laura Beebe; Christina Carney; Seth San Juan; Davorn Sisavath; Susan Chen.

Course Description

In this course we will situate the study of race and ethnicity in the United States in an international framework. We will focus on how imperialist expansion – genocide, colonization, globalization, militarization, financialization, etc. – has shaped the history and culture of the US. In this way our approach seeks to understand how specific racial, gender, class, and sexual formations in the *US-as-Empire* are products of complex interactions between national and international spheres, culture and politics, state actors and transnational flows. We will examine how various forms of racial ideology, from white supremacy to neoliberal multiculturalism, bear a strong relationship to changes in the global ambitions and globalizing practices of US imperial capitalism. Our objective is to learn to think in new ways about the relationship between race and nation, the partitioning of culture and politics, and the new possibilities of identification, association and action that particular forms of national hegemony and global domination engender.

Required Texts (available at UCSD bookstore)

1. Justin Akers Chacon and Mike Davis, No One Is Illegal: Fighting Racism and State Violence on the US-Mexico Border (2006)
2. Melani McAlister, Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, & U.S. Interests in the Middle East since 1945 (2005)
3. Course Reader (available online) [CR]

Majoring or Minorin in Ethnic Studies at UCSD

Many students take an ethnic studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of 'interest' yet have no information about the major and minor and don't realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An ethnic studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law,

public policy, government and politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the ethnic studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Yolanda Escamilla, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, at 858-534-3277 or yescamilla@ucsd.edu.

Evaluation

Section Attendance and Participation	10%
Section Group Presentation	10%
Quizzes	25%
Mid-Term (week 5)	25%
Final	30%

You must complete all course requirements in order to earn a passing grade for the class.

Participation grade: The class participation grade will be calculated based on your regular involvement in your discussion section. You are responsible for keeping up the reading materials each week so that you can fully participate in your section discussions. Discussions will also cover lectures and films. 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.

Research Essay: Prompt for the research essay will be given in week 4. The essay will be due in your discussion section during week 8. *No late papers will be accepted.*

Midterm and Final Examinations: The midterm will be an in-class exam. The final will be a combination of take-home and in-class examination. Both exams require the use of course readings, lectures, section discussions, and films to respond to the 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 your disability, you cannot accept the content or terms of this syllabus, please let me know in person and in writing before the end of the second week of class.

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 rule are reflected in the UCSD Principles of Community, which we are all expected to follow (www.vcba.ucsd.edu/principles.htm).

Cheating or Plagiarism: Cheating or plagiarism are not acceptable practices. If you are caught cheating on an exam or quiz, it will result in a failing grade. 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.

Itinerary

PART I: Violence and Terror in the Making of the Modern World

Week 1: *Outcasts, Globalization, and the American Revolution*

Readings:

Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker, "Introduction," "The Wreck of the *Sea Venture*," "The Outcasts of the Nations of the Earth," and "A Motley Crew in the American Revolution" (The Many-Headed Hydra, pp. 1-35 and 174-247). [CR]

Week 2: *Slave Economies and Racialization*

Readings:

Marcus Rediker, "Olaudah Equiano: Astonishment and Terror" and "James Field Stanfield and the Floating Dungeon" (The Slave Ship, pp. 108-156) [CR]

Ned Blackhawk, "Spanish-Ute Relations to 1750" and "The Making of the New Mexican-Ute Borderlands" (Violence over the Land, pp. 16-87) [CR]

Week 3: *Genocide, Ethnocide and Law*

Readings:

Laura Gomez, "Introduction," "The U.S. Colonization of New Mexico and the Creation of Mexican Americans," and "Where Mexicans Fit in the New American Racial Order" (Manifest Destinies, pp. 1-80) [CR]

Luana Ross, "World's Collide" and "Racializing Montana" (Inventing the Savage, pp. 11-51) [CR]

Tomas Almaguer, "Introduction" and "We desire only a white population in California" (Racial Faultlines, pp. 1-41) [CR]

Week 4: *Borders, Policing and Violence*

Film: "Sleep Dealers" (Alex Rivera, 2009)¹

Readings:

Justin Akers Chacon and Mike Davis, No One is Illegal, pp. 10-52; 70-258.

¹ The films for this course are available for viewing in the media lab of the Main Library (Geisel) and via home streaming provided to students by the library. The films should be viewed prior to going to discussion section for the particular week that they are assigned.

PART II : On the Recodings of Race and Nation in the Context of US Global Imperialism

Week 5: *The Culture(s) of Postwar Imperialism*

Monday 4/30 **Mid-Term** (in-class)

Readings:

Melani McAlister, Epic Encounters, pp. xi-55; 80-121.

George Lipsitz, “‘Frantic to Join . . . the Japanese Army’: The Asia Pacific War in the Lives of African American Soldiers” [CR]

Week 6: *The Work of History and the Rewriting of Race*

Readings:

Melani McAlister, Epic Encounters, pp. 235-307.

Robin D.G. Kelley, “Introduction: Writing Black Working-Class History from Way, Way Below” and “Shiftless of the World Unite” (Race Rebels, pp. 1-34) [CR]

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, “The Great Good Luck of the Found Horseshoe” and “Red Diaper Baby?” (Red Dirt: Growing Up Okie, pp. 1-20) [CR]

Staughton Lynd, “Introduction” and “Overcoming Racism” (Lucasville: The Untold Story of a Prison Uprising, pp. 5-14, 133-150) [CR]

Week 7: *Geopolitical Imaginaries and Asian American Critique*

Readings:

Jodi Kim, “Introduction: Unsettling Hermeneutics and Global Nonalignments” (Ends of Empire, pp. 1-35) [CR]

Victor Bascara, “Unburdening Empire: The Cultural Politics of Asian American Difference” (Model Minority Imperialism, pp. 1-25) [CR]

Helen Jun, “Introduction,” “Asian Americans in the Age of Neoliberalism,” and “Afterword” (Race for Citizenship, pp. 1-12 and 123-156) [CR]

Friday 5/18 Film (in-class): “AKA Don Bonus” (Sokly Ny, 1996)²

² In order to watch this film in its entirety (56 minutes), we will begin at 12:55pm. Please arrive to class and be seated by this time.

Week 8: *Counter-Terrorism and the Manufacturing of Otherness*

Film: “Frozen River” (Courtney Hunt, 2008)

Readings:

Talal Asad, “Introduction” and “Terrorism” (On Suicide Bombing, pp. 1-38) [CR]

Amitava Kumar, “A Missile in the Living Room,” “I have delivered the pizza,” and
“Tourist-Theorist-Terrorist” (A Foreigner Carrying in the Crook of His
Arm a Tiny Bomb, pp. 1-12; 111-140; 162-178) [CR]

Friday 5/25: [No Class]

Week 9: *Neo-Imperial Racialization and Anti-Racist Analytics*

Monday 5/28 MEMORIAL DAY – No Class

Readings:

João H. Costa-Vargas, “Introduction: The Urgency Imperative of Genocide” and
“Genocide in the African Diaspora: US, Brazil, and the Imperatives of
Holistic Analysis and Political Method” (Never Meant to Survive, pp. xix-
xxxi; 1-20) [CR]

Jodi Melamed, “Introduction: Producing Discourses of Certainty with Official
Antiracisms” (Represent and Destroy, pp. 1-50) [CR]

Week 10: *On the Future(s) of Critical Ethnic Studies*

Readings:

Cherie Moraga, “From Inside the First World: On 9/11 and Women-of-Color Feminism”
(A Xicana Codex of Changing Consciousness, pp.18-33) [CR]

Angela Davis, “Ethnic Studies, Global Meanings” (Women, Culture and Politics, pp. 186-
197) [CR]

Cherie Moraga, “This Benighted Nation We Name Home” (A Xicana Codex of Changing
Consciousness, pp. 163-174) [CR]

Final. (Date, time and location TBD)