

Ethnic Studies 105/Urban Studies 104: Race and the City

Prof. Natalia Molina

Office: Social Science Building 226 (next to RIMAC)

Mailbox: Department of Ethnic Studies, Social Science Building 201

E-mail is the best way to contact me: nmolina@weber.ucsd.edu

*Please write "105" in the subject line or the e-mail might be directed to my spam folder

Office Phone: 858.822.1580

Office hours: Tuesday, 3:00-4:30 & Thursday, 1:30-3:00 and by appointment

Overview:

The goal of this class is to demonstrate how urban space takes on racialized meanings and how race serves as an organizing principle within cities. The course asks you to correlate the relationship between race, place, and power. Using race as an analytical tool, we will answer how the city is experienced and imagined differently when using race as our lens.

A range of disciplines will inform our studies, including anthropology, history, urban planning, and media studies. The class itself is organized by historical periodization. Through readings, lectures, and course work, you will establish a deep understanding of urban racial geography.

In order to understand better how race becomes inscribed in the city, we will look at how national changes in policy affect the local level. In our investigation at both the micro and macro levels, we will study public and private spaces, ranging from leisure, work, civic, and cultural spaces. We will examine issues such as the gentrification, grassroots organizing and spatial segregation.

We will also gain an understanding of how the built environment informs people's politics and identities. People operate within the political-economic structure to try to make these systems reflect their needs and to shape public debates. They appropriate, interrupt, and participate in a range of urban spaces through a range of activities including social movements, protests, cultural productions, and voting alliances.

Required Books and Readings:

- 1) Kevin Mumford, *Interzones* (Columbia University Press) 1997
- 2) Ian Haney-Lopez, *Racism on Trial* (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press)
- 3) Laura Pulido, *Black, Brown, Yellow, and Left: Radical Activism in Los Angeles* (University of California Press)
- 4) Julie Sze, *Noxious New York: The Racial Politics of Urban Health and Environmental Justice*
- 5) Steve Macek, *Urban Nightmares: The Media, the Right, and the Moral Panic over the City* (Minnesota Press)

Journal articles are on electronic reserve (<http://libraries.ucsd.edu/services/reserves.html>).

All books are available at Groundworks Bookstore, 858.452.9625. The books will be on reserve in the library.

Creating a learning environment: Only a portion of what you learn in this course will be from your instructors and the readings. Your classmates will play an instrumental role in your learning experience. As such, come to class prepared and be ready to join in the conversation. The more involved you become, the more you will gain. Support your opinions with what you learned in the readings, sections, and lecture. Benjamin Franklin once said, "Seek first to understand, then to be

understood.” Listen carefully to others before you decide where you stand in relation to their argument and how to respond in a respectful and productive manner. Please also refer to UCSD’s Principles of Community, <http://www-vcba.ucsd.edu/principles.htm>.

Requirements and Grading:

Primary Research Paper, 30%, Tuesday, Week 5

2nd Primary Research Paper, 35%, Tuesday, Week 8

Final Paper, due date of scheduled final, 35%

Primary Research Paper: For your papers, you will look up at 2-3 primary documents from the *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times* or the Ethnic NewsWatch database (You can access these websites by going to the UCSD library’s main page, going to databases A-Z, and then looking up these up.) You can access these newspapers through the database on the UCSD website which is restricted to UC campus. If you cannot access the database, contact the library, 858.534.3336. You will analyze the sources within the context of the time period and explain how the documents illustrate arguments made or shed new light on the readings. The objective is to see how you apply/challenge/add to /overturn the narratives we read in the texts. You may also include and analyze the photographs in the articles.

Final Paper: In lieu of a final, you will turn in a paper on the issues raised in Part III of the course.

Late Policy: I deduct 7 points from papers for every 24 hours they are late. Papers are due at 9:30 am on the due date. If you have a medical emergency, please produce a doctor’s note and I will do my best to work with you.

Extra credit: Extra-credit assignments are worth up to 1 point added to your final score in the course. You may turn in up to 3 extra credit assignments. Up to two extra credits can be earned through written reports on the lectures given at the Center for Race and Ethnicity’s weekly colloquium held on Wednesdays at 3 PM in Social Science Building 107. Reports are due within one week of the lecture. Extra credit can be earned by making a presentation on your findings through the primary research you did.

Readings: Completing the readings by the date assigned will help you get the most out of lectures and presentations. Your objective is to draw the connections between the readings, lectures and discussions. The lectures will elaborate on some of the key concepts in the readings, but they will not be a review of the readings.

Schedule and Assignments:

PART I:

Week 1: Race As An Organizing Principle in the Urban Landscape

Introduction and overview of the class

Readings: Kay J. Anderson, “The Idea of Chinatown: The Power of Place and Institutional Practice in the Making of a Racial Category,” *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 77, No. 4. (Dec., 1987), pp. 580-598.

Week 2: Drawing Sexual Color Lines

Terms to know: social geography, vice borderlands

Reading: Mumford, *Interzones*.

Tuesday: Introduction, (not chapter 1) Chapters 2, 3

Thursday: 4, 5, 6 (not chapter 7).

Week 3:

Reading: Mumford, *Interzones*, Chapter 8

Week 4: Fighting for Justice in the City

Tuesday: Reading: Haney-Lopez, *Racism on Trial*, Introduction, Chapters 1 and 3 (not 2).

Thursday: Reading: Haney-Lopez, *Racism on Trial*, Introduction, Chapters 4-6

Week 5:

Tuesday, paper due at 9:30 am

Optional: In class presentations of primary sources for extra-credit on the day the paper is due.

PART II: Week 6: Justice and Activism

Tuesday: *Black, Brown, Yellow, and Left*, Part I

Thursday: *Black, Brown, Yellow, and Left*, Part II

Week 7:

Tuesday: *Noxious New York*, Chapters 1-3

Thursday: *Noxious New York*, Chapters 4-6, conclusion

Week 8:

Tuesday: Paper due

Part III: Moral Panics in the City

Thursday: Readings: Macek, *Urban Nightmares*, Introduction, Chapter 1

Week 9:

Tuesday: Readings: Macek, *Urban Nightmares*, Chapters 2-3

Week 10:

Tuesday: Readings: Macek, *Urban Nightmares*, Chapter 5

Final: Take-home paper due on the day of the scheduled final, Tuesday, March 17, from 8 am-11 am. You may turn it in at my office, Social Science Building 226.

Majoring or Minor 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 or 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.