

**Critical Gender Studies 112/ Ethnic Studies 127:
Sexuality and Nation
Winter 2011**

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Office Location: Department of Ethnic Studies, SSB 232

Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 10:15-11:15 am; Wednesdays by appt.

Course Description

This seminar offers an interdisciplinary survey of nation-building and state formation processes in the 19th and 20th century Americas. Course readings and class discussion will be guided by specific attention to how socially constructed categories of difference—particularly gender, race and sexuality—have shaped/continue to shape material boundaries and ideological claims of national belonging. Employing a feminist, anti-racist theoretical framework, we will grapple with the following questions: How might we theorize the relationship between structures of white supremacy and patriarchy and the (re)production of the imperial and/or postcolonial nation? How are the boundaries of the modern nation-state shaped, transformed, and contested by competing raced and gendered claims of (trans)nationalist belonging? If, as many pundits argue, we are currently experiencing a “decline of the nation-state,” then what ghosts of nationalism continue to haunt the raced and gendered structures, states, and citizens of late capitalist globalization?

Course Objectives

In a course that is structured around a vast survey of historically and geographically diverse themes, the sheer scope of our common undertaking—study of national and transnational state and subject formations—may feel formidable at best, or overwhelming at worst. However, please note that our goal in this seminar will not be to memorize or master a series of clear-cut answers; rather, by engaging in lively debate and learning from fellow colleagues, we aim to hone our ability to ask critical questions so as to further develop our skills as writers, readers, and critics.

Required Texts

Required course readings can be viewed and downloaded via the UCSD Library course reserve website: <http://libraries.ucsd.edu/resources/course-reserves/index.html>

Accommodations

I wish to make this course as accessible as possible to students with disabilities or medical conditions that may affect any aspect of course assignments or participation. If you require any specific accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible. Also, if you prefer to be called by a different name than the one with which you are enrolled, I will also be happy to oblige.

Email and Office Hours Policies

I aim to respond to student emails within 48 hours. While I am happy to address brief inquiries via email, questions that require a longer response should be addressed during office hours. In order to accommodate as many students as possible, individual student appointments during my scheduled office hours will be 15-20 minutes in length.

Course Requirements

Assignments

Grading Scale

Attendance/Participation	20%	94-100	A	73-75	C
Discussion Points	25%	90-93	A-	70-72	C-
Midterm Paper	25%	86-89	B+	66-69	D+
Final Exam	30%	83-85	B	63-65	D
		80-82	B-	60-63	D-
		76-79	C+	0-60	F

- 1) **Attendance and participation (20%)**: Class participation and punctual attendance are crucial. Students are expected to finish all reading assigned prior to class. Please be prepared to express your own critical questions and critiques of course materials and to participate actively in class discussions. An absence that results from extenuating circumstances will be excused; however, **more than two unexcused absences will affect your final grade.**
- 2) **Discussion Point (25%)** Each week, with the exemption of those weeks when other assignments are due (see the course calendar that follows for a schedule of assignment due dates), students are responsible for the contribution of a “discussion point” that relates to course themes. A discussion point can take the form of a critical question or response to course readings, or an artifact (such as a news article, song or image). Each DP assignment should be uploaded to the assignments folder on WebCT. Please include your name, the appropriate date, and a concise paragraph about how the question, critical reflection, or artifact that you have chosen relates to the key themes of the correlating week. Do bring a hard copy of the assignment so that you may share your critical questions and observations with your colleagues.
- 3) **Short Paper (Midterm Assignment) (25% each)**: Students will be required to a short paper (approximately 5-6 pages in length) in response to a theoretical question generated from course readings. Your work will be evaluated on its argumentative and organizational clarity and the extent to which it demonstrates a clear understanding of the key themes outlined in course readings and class discussions. The question for the first midterm will be distributed on Thursday, Jan. 27th and must be submitted in **hard copy** by Tues. Feb. 8th at 5pm. **Please note that late papers will not be accepted.**
- 4) **Final Exam (30%)**: The final exam will consist of a comprehensive theoretical question generated from our survey of course readings, and will be distributed at our final class meeting (Tuesday, March 8th). Students will be expected to craft a response 5-7 pages in length, to be submitted electronically to the assignments folder on WebCT no later than **Tuesday, March 15th at 5pm.** **Late exams will not be accepted.**
- 5) **Grading Policy**: In order to receive a passing grade in the class, students must complete **all** course assignments.

UNIT ONE: SETTING THE TERMS

Week One: *Setting the Terms*

Tues. 1/4 **Introduction**

Thurs. 1/6 **Keywords**

- Alys Eve Weinbaum, "Nation"
- Roderick Ferguson, "Race"
- Judith "Jack" Halberstam, "Gender"

Week Two: *Thinking Gender, Sexuality, and Nation*

Tues. 1/11 ***On Nation and Nationalism***

- Nira Yuval-Davis, "Theorizing Gender and Nation"
- Jyoti Puri, "Parades, Flags, and National Pride"

Thurs. 1/13 ***Gendering the Nation-state***

- Due:*** ▪ Paul Thomas, "State"
- Discussion Point 1*** ▪ Linda McDowell, "Gendering the Nation-State"

Week Three: *The Unmaking and Making of "America"*

Tues. 1/18 ***Nation-building Through Colonial Expansion***

- Robert Warrior, "Indian"
- Andrea Smith. "Sexual Violence as a Tool of Genocide"
- David E. Wilkins. "Indian Peoples Are Nations, Not Minorities"

Thurs. 1/20 ***National Subjectivity and Property***

- Due:*** ▪ Grace Kyungwon Hong. "The Possessive Individual and Social Death: The Complex Bind of National Subjectivity"
- Discussion Point 2*** ▪ Grace Kyungwon Hong. "Property"

Week Four: *Domestic Interiors—Nationalism and the Heteropatriarchal Family*

Tues. 1/25 ***Imperial Domesticities***

- Amy Kaplan, "Manifest Domesticity"

Thurs. 1/27 ***Nation-building and the Heteropatriarchal Family***

- Due:*** ▪ Siobhan B. Sommerville, "Queer"
- Discussion Point 3*** ▪ Roderick Ferguson. "The Nightmares of the Heteronormative"

Week Five: Reproducing the National Body

Tues. 2/1

Reproducing the National Body

- **Nira Yuval-Davis**, "Women and the Biological Reproduction of the Nation"
- **Angela Davis**, "Racism, Birth Control, and Reproductive Rights"

Thurs. 2/3

Policing the National Body

***No Discussion
Point Due***

- **Andrea Smith**, "Better Dead than Pregnant"
- **Laura Briggs**, "Debating Reproduction: Birth Control, Eugenics and Overpopulation in Puerto Rico, 1920-1940."

Week Six: Race, Sexuality and Immigration

Tues. 2/8

Queering Immigration

Midterm due by 5pm

- **Siobhan Sommerville**. "Sexualized Aliens and the Racialized State: A Queer Reading of the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act"

Thurs. 2/10

Policing Sexuality, Policing Immigration

***Due:
Discussion Point 4***

- **Dorothy Roberts**, "Who May Give Birth to Citizens? Reproduction, Eugenics, and Immigration"
- **Nayan Shah**. "Policing Privacy, Migrants, and the Limits of Freedom."

Week Seven: Colonialism/Imperialism/Feminism

Tues. 2/15

Colonial Gazes

- **Chandra Mohanty**. "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses"
- **Vijay Prashad**, "Orientalism"
- **Ania Loomba**. "Situating Colonial and Postcolonial Studies"

Thurs. 2/17

Imperial Feminisms

***Due:
Discussion Point 5***

- **Lila Abu-Lughod**, "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?"
- **Samuel M. Zwemer**, "Introduction" in Our Moslem Sisters

Week Eight: Transnationalisms

Tues. 2/22

Theorizing Transnationalism

- **Agnes Lugo-Ortiz et. al.** "Ethnic Studies in an Age of Transnationalism"
- **Ella Shohat**, "Area Studies, Transnationalism, and the Feminist Production of Knowledge"
- **Mani, Lata** "Multiple Mediations: Feminist Scholarship in the Age of Multinational Reception"

Thurs. 2/24

Trans meets Nationalism

Due:
Discussion Point 6

- **Toby Beauchamp**, “Artful Concealment and Strategic Visibility: Transgender Bodies and U.S. State Surveillance After 9/11”

Week Nine: Homonationalisms

Tues. 3/1

Homonormativities

- **Jasbir Puar**, “Mapping US Homonormativities”

Thurs. 3/3

Homonationalisms

Due:
Discussion Point 7

- **Scott Lauria Morgensen**, “Settler Homonationalism: Theorizing Settler Colonialism within Queer Modernities”

Week Ten: Imagining Alliances

Tues. 3/8

- **Andrea Smith**. “American Studies without America: Native Feminisms and the Nation-State”

Thurs. 3/10

NO CLASS!

No Discussion Point
Due

Tues. 3/15

Final Exam Due by 5pm (Dropbox available at SSB 232)

Bibliography

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- **Critical Resistance and Incite! Women of Color Against Violence,** "Gender Violence and the Prison Industrial Complex" in Color of Violence, Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2006. 2
- **Davis, Angela.** "Racism, Birth Control, and Reproductive Rights" in Feminist Postcolonial Theory, Reina Lewis and Sara Mills eds. New York: Routledge, 2003.
- **Fausto-Sterling, Anne.** "Gender, Race, and Nation: The Comparative Anatomy of "Hottentot" Women in Europe, 1815-1817" in Deviant Bodies, Jennifer Terry and Jacqueline Urla eds. (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1995 19-48.)
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