

Winter 2013
ETHN 101
Tuesdays 6:00 – 8:50pm
Warren Lecture Hall 2205

Professor: Jade Power Sotomayor
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Office Hours: Mondays 3-4pm, SSB 249
(Or by appointment)

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 10am-12pm, SSB 241

Ethnic Images in Film

Movies do not merely offer us the opportunity to reimagine the culture we most intimately know on screen, they make culture. -bell hooks

This course looks at the various ways in which race and ethnicity are socially constructed and enacted through filmic performance. The films we watch offer opportunities to understand how these constructs, especially as they intersect with gender, class and sexuality, are both engaged and contested by different marginalized subjects. In doing so, we will discuss how cinema has often used bodies of color as a source of entertainment that produces as well as justifies structural racism. Additionally, we will study films made, by, for, and about people of color that claim the filmic medium as a site for agency and resistance to these racial representations. We will explore film as a social text, something beyond “entertainment,” thus enabling us to ask questions about production and reception, or how film operates for those who make the films as well as for those who watch the films.

Each three-hour class meeting will consist of a lecture, a full-length film screening and/or extended clips of multiple movies, and class discussion. There will also be film viewings and assigned readings that you are expected to complete before class meets.

WARNING: Those sensitive to scenes of violence, offensive language, nudity, or other potentially upsetting material should proceed with caution. By remaining registered in this course, you consent to viewing the content of these films.

GRADING & ASSIGNMENTS:

- **Class Attendance and Participation: 20%**
 - This includes attendance and participation in both lecture and section. Your attendance in both of these weekly meetings is mandatory and will be necessary to do well in the course.
- **Quizzes/Writing Assignments: 20%**
 - You will be required to complete **4 online quizzes and turn in 4 reflection papers (500 words)**. You may choose what weeks you wish to do so.
 - Quizzes will be posted on TED following lecture and you will have until Wednesday at 5pm to complete the quiz. The quizzes will have 10 questions,

each worth one point. The quiz consists of multiple choice, T/F, or questions that ask you to match definitions. Questions will focus on the lecture, the film, and the reading for that week. You have 15 minutes to complete your quiz and may use your notes.

- The reflection papers will be due in your Friday section. These will consist of your reflections on that week's reading assignments, the films and the lecture. These should not summarize, nor consist simply of your opinion, but rather work towards raising questions and creating connections between the materials, your own viewing experiences and current events.
- **Paper 1: 20%** to be turned in through TED by 4pm on Monday, February 11 (week 6). Paper length 5-7 pages.
- **Final Project or Paper 2: 20%** to be turned in through TED by 4pm on March 11 (week 10). Choice of making a short film that critically engages the course topics or to write a paper (5-7 pages). Specific instructions on making a film will be given Week 6.
- **Final: 20%**— Bring Blue Books.

Class Schedule

NOTE: All readings will be posted on TED as pdfs.

Week 1 – January 7

Course Introduction

- **Watch:**
 - In class: *Representation and the Media* (with Stuart Hall, Dir. Sut Jhally) and *Ethnic Notions* (Dir. Marlon Riggs)
- **Reading:**
 - “The Work of Representation” Stuart Hall from *Cultural Representation and Signifying Practices*.
 - “A Short Guide to Writing About Film” Tim Corrigan.

Week 2 – January 14

Whiteness, Masculinity and the In/visible Racial Other at the Movies

- **Watch:**
 - In class: *Gran Torino* (Dir. Clint Eastwood)
- **Reading:**
 - “The light of the world” from *White* by Richard Dyer
 - From *Screen Savors: Hollywood Fictions of Whiteness* by Hernán Vera and Andrew M. Gordon

Week 3 – January 21 – NO CLASS MEETING: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY

- **Watch**
 - Outside of class: *Bamboozled* (Dir. Spike Lee)
 - Outside of class: *Django Unchained* (Dir. Quentin Tarantino) ** Now showing at local theaters
- **Reading:**
 - From *Reel to Reel: Race, Sex and Class at the Movies* by bell hooks

- “Formations of Colonialist Discourse” from Ella Shohat and Robert Stam’s *Unthinking Eurocentrism*

Week 4 – January 28

Cowboys, Indians and Narratives of “America”

- **Watch:**
 - In class: *Smoke Signals* (Dir. Chris Eyre)
 - Outside of class: *Pocahontas* (Disney)
- **Reading**
 - “Stereotype, Realism and the Burden of Representation” from Ella Shohat and Robert Stam’s *Unthinking Eurocentrism*
 - “John Wayne’s Teeth: Speech Sound and Representation in *Smoke Signals* and *Imagining Indians*” by Joanna Hearne

Week 5 – February 4

Guest Lecture from Lila Sharif

- **Watch:**
 - In class: *Paradise Now* (Dir. Hany Abu-Assad)
- **Reading:**
 - TBA

Week 6 –February 11

PAPER ONE DUE

Suburbia and Action Films: “Mainstreaming” the Asian Other

- **Watch:**
 - **In class:** *Better Luck Tomorrow* (Dir. Justin Lin)
- **Reading:**
 - “Of Myths and Men: *Better Luck Tomorrow* and the Mainstreaming of Asian America Cinema” by Margaret Hillenbrand
 - TBA

Week 7 – February 18 – NO CLASS MEETING: PRESIDENT’S DAY HOLIDAY

Liberalism at the Movies: Why Can't We All Just Get Along?”

- **Watch:**
 - Outside of Class: *Crash* (Dir. Paul Haggis)
- **Reading:**
 - TBA

Week 8 – February 25

Representing Black Women’s Sexuality

- **Watch:**
 - In class: *Watermelon Woman* (Dir. Cheryl Dunye)
 - Outside of class: *Precious* (Dir. Lee Daniels)
- **Reading:**
 - “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema” by Laury Mulvey
 - “Selling Hot Pussy” by bell hooks
 - “Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power” by Audre Lorde

Week 9 – March 4**Latina Bodies: Booty-shaking to Stardom**

- **Watch:**
 - In class: *Walkout* (Dir. Edward James Olmos)
 - Outside of class: *Selena* (Dir. Gregory Nava)
- **Reading:**
 - “Embodying Latinidad” by Mayra Mendible from *From Bananas to Buttocks: The Latina Body in Popular Film and Culture*
 - “A Crash course on Hollywood’s Latino Imagery” by Charles Ramírez Berg from *Latino Images on Film*

Week 10 – March 11**PAPER TWO/FINAL PROJECT DUE****Mixed Race Hollywood and Futuristic Fantasies**

- **Watch:** TBA
- **Reading:**
 - “The Politics of Multiculturalism in the Postmodern Age” from Ella Shohat and Robert Stam’s *Unthinking Eurocentrism*
 - “Ethnic Ambiguity in the Era of *Dark Angels*: Jessica Alba and Mixed Latina/o Trends” by Mary C. Beltrán from *Latina/o Stars in U.S. Eyes: The Making and Meanings of Film and TV Stardom*

Finals Week

- **FINAL – Monday, March 18 7:00-10:00pm. LOCATION: TBA**

TAKE NOTE: Please turn off cell-phones during class. You will have a break where you can check your messages. Otherwise, please refrain from using your phones during the lectures and film screenings.

A Note about Reading Assignments:

Reading assignments must be completed before the lecture on the day they are assigned. Concepts covered in the reading will be expanded upon in class, however, it will be necessary to have completed the reading in order to keep up with the lecture. The weekly quizzes will also reflect the reading assignments.

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 do not 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, education, medicine, public health, social work, counseling, journalism, government and politics, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor, please contact: Daisy Rodríguez, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, 858-534-3277 or d1rodriguez@ucsd.edu or www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu