

**Ethnic Studies 150/ Critical Gender Studies 150
Visuality, Sexuality and Race Syllabus
Winter 2014**

Professor: Daphne V. Taylor-García, dtg@ucsd.edu
Class Time: Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-4:50pm at TM 102 1
Office Location: Department of Ethnic Studies, SSB 226
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00—3:00pm and by appointment

Course Description:

I am given no chance. I am overdetermined from without. I am the slave
not of the “idea” that others have of me but of my own appearance.
-Frantz Fanon

Visuality is a specific term to refer to the way in which power relations construct our visual field. In other words, how we make sense of what we “see” is mediated by existing power relations. Visuality classifies through the power to name, categorize and define, thus producing what is legible. This system of classification is a means of social organization that began with the *casta* system and plantation slavery, but is now transhistoric in its reproduction and expansion of colonial effects such as racial profiling and the coloniality of gender. Visuality also speaks to the *naturalization* of this system of classification that has serious immediate and long-term material consequences: it functions to both renew power relations and preempt colonial subjects from organizing for their collective interests. For this reason presenting a counternarrative to visuality has been central to queer of color critique.

Required Texts:

Books can be purchased at the UCSD Bookstore:

Frantz Fanon. *Black Skin, White Masks*. New York: Grove Press, 2008.

Jacqueline Martinez. *Phenomenology of Chicana Experience and Identity*.
Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2000.

All other course readings can be viewed and downloaded via TED.

- Please bring copies of the readings to class.
- Please note: Readings may be edited or added depending on class discussions.

Accommodations:

I would like to ensure this class is accessible to everyone. Please contact me as soon as possible if you require any specific accommodations for a disability or medical reason.

Course Requirements:

Reader Response: 10%
Précis (three of them): 10% each = 30%
Online Discussion Contributions: 10%
Participation: 20%
Final Paper: 20%
Presentation: 10%

Attendance/Participation:

Seminar style classes are discussion based. So while I will lecture to help elucidate, contextualize or elaborate a particular concept, it is also expected that students will come to class ready to engage in a discussion.

Please arrive in class having completed the assigned readings for the day. Informed and engaged discussion is a critical part of the learning process and everyone is, of course, expected to contribute.

Grading Policy:

Students must complete all assignments to get a passing grade in the class.

All submitted assignments should be double-spaced in 12pt font Times New Roman or equivalent.

Schedule:**Week 1**

January 7
Welcoming and Introductions

UNIT 1
Brief Historical Context

January 9
Ilona Katzew. *Excerpt from Casta Painting*
Deborah Miranda. "Extermination of the Joyas."

Week 2

January 14
W.E.B. Dubois. *Excerpt from The Souls of Black Folk*
Audre Lorde. "The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action."

January 16
Eithne Luibheid. "Looking like a Lesbian: The Organization of Sexual Monitoring at the US/Mexico Border."

Due: 2-page reader response

UNIT 2

Defining Visuality

Week 3

January 21

Judith Butler. "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay on Phenomenology and Feminist Theory."

January 23

Jean-Paul Sartre. *Excerpt from* Being and Nothingness

Due: 2 page précis of Sartre

Week 4

January 28

Maurice Merleau-Ponty. *Excerpt from* Phenomenology of Perception

January 30

Frantz Fanon. Black Skin, White Masks. Pages xi—44

Week 5

February 4

Fanon cont'd. Pages 45—88

February 6

Fanon cont'd. Pages 89—184

Week 6

February 11

Fanon cont'd. Pages 185—206

Due: 3 page précis of Fanon

UNIT 3

Brief Overview of Semiotics

February 13

Stuart Hall. "The Work of Representation," Pages 15—63 and readings A, B, C, D, E, F

UNIT 4

Sexual Identity in a Colonial Context

Week 7

February 18

Rory Crath. "Reading Fanon in 'Homosexual Territory': Towards a Queering of Queer Pedagogy."

February 20

Jacqueline Martinez. *Phenomenology of Chicana Experience and Identity*. Pages 1—31

Week 8

February 25

Martinez cont'd Pages 33—80

February 27

Martinez cont'd Pages 81—133

Due: 3 page précis of Martinez

UNIT 5
Orientations

Week 9

March 4

Linda Martín-Alcoff. "Phenomenology of Racial Embodiment."

Arturo Castellon. "Down a New Road: Thoughts on Fanon's Revolutionary Praxis."

March 6

Sara Ahmed. *Excerpt from Queer Phenomenology*

UNIT 6
The Students Teach!

Week 10

March 11

Presentations

March 13

Presentations continued

Final: 5-7 minute presentation based on final paper. Final paper is to be 7-10 pages. A prompt will be provided.

Final Papers Due March 15th by 7pm at SSB 226.