

Visuality, Sexuality and Race
Syllabus
Ethnic Studies 150/ Critical Gender Studies 150
Winter 2017

Professor: Daphne Taylor-García, dtg@ucsd.edu

Class: T/TH 2:00-3:20pm, WLH 2114

Office Location: Department of Ethnic Studies, SSB 226

Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30pm–5:30pm and by appointment

Please note: No office hours on Jan 17th or Jan 31st due to prescheduled meetings.

Course Description:

I'm not given a second chance. I am overdetermined from the outside. I am the slave not to the "idea" others have of me, but to my 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 colonization of the Americas and slavery, but is now structural in its reproduction and expansion of colonial effects such as racial and sexual profiling and the colonality 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/racial 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. *Communicative Sexualities: A Communicology of Sexual Experience*. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2011.

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:

Précis (three of them): 50%

Merleau-Ponty: 10%	2 pages
Martinez: 20%	3-5 pages
Fanon: 20%	3-5 pages

Please see TED under the “information” tab for specific guidelines on how to write a précis.

Final Presentation: 10%

Create a 5-minute presentation. Feel free to draw from any of your written assignments from the class, or bring in additional visual material.

Final reflection paper: 20%

Write a reflection paper based on the course. 6-7 pages due March 16th in class.

Attendance/Participation: 20%

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 expected to contribute.

Please note: this is an upper division course with very dense reading material. I strongly recommend that you have some background in CGS or Ethnic Studies before taking this course.

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.

The grading rubric can be found on TED under the “information” tab.

Schedule of Classes:

Week 1

01/10

Welcome and Introductions

Central themes and concepts

01/12

Alcoff, Linda Martin. "Phenomenology of Racial Embodiment."

Week 2

01/17

Merleau Ponty, Maurice. Excerpt from *Phenomenology of Perception*. Pp. 403-414.
Read up to "But is it indeed..."

01/19

Merleau Ponty. *Continued*. Pp. 414-425.

Precis # 1 due

Sexualities

Week 3

01/24

Martinez, Jacqueline. *Communicative Sexualities*. Pp. 1-42

01/26

Martinez. *Continued*. Pp. 43-69

Week 4

01/31

Martinez. *Continued*. Pp. 71-95

02/02

Martinez. *Continued*. Pp. 97-135

Precis #2 Due

The Look and the Other

Week 5

02/07

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

Race and Visuality

02/09

Fanon, Frantz. *Black Skin, White Masks*. Pp. xi-44

Week 6

02/14

Fanon. *Continued*. Pp. 45-88

Film (Stream on Kanopy): Black Skin, White Masks

02/16

Fanon. *Continued*. Pp. 89-184

Week 7

02/21

Fanon. *Continued*. Pp. 185-206

Precis #3 due

02/23

Class time for working on your presentations and final papers. Please write a brief description (1/2 page) of what you plan to present on and discuss in your final paper. We will discuss them next class.

Week 8

02/28

Vest, Jennifer Lisa.

“What Doesn't Kill You: Existential Luck, Postracial Racism, and the Subtle and Not So Subtle Ways the Academy Keeps Women of Color Out”

03/02

Vest, Jennifer Lisa. “Being and Not Being, Knowing and Not Knowing: Mixedness Impossible.”

Student Presentations!

Week 9

03/07

Presentations

03/09

Presentations

Week 10

03/14

Presentations

03/16

Presentations

Final Paper due in class on 03/16