

DECOLONIAL THEORY
ETHN 163E—Winter 2017
Thursdays 5:00-7:50pm
HSS 2152

Professor: Daphne V. Taylor-García
Office: Social Science Building 226
Mailbox: Department of Ethnic Studies, SSB 201
Email: dtg@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30-5:30pm and by appointment at my office

Course Description

Decolonial theory is a very large body of intellectual work. Thus, this course will be neither comprehensive nor exhaustive. Instead, the course will focus on three key themes that are of particular interest in the contemporary moment: discourses of *blood*, the *coloniality of being*, and *grassroots theory*. The purpose of this course is twofold: to familiarize students with some of the central concerns in decolonial theory as well as to continue to think through possible futures.

Course Requirements

1) Class Discussion and Attendance – 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.

2) Assignment #1 and #2: Each paper is to be 4 - 5 pages long. Instructions: Identify and explain a key argument that runs through each unit's readings. Draw your examples from the unit.

First paper due based on Unit 2: February 2nd in class – 20%

Second paper due based on Unit 3: February 16th in class – 20%

3) Attend a special event hosted by:

The Ethnic Studies Department, Critical Gender Studies Program, the Black Studies Project, or the Chicano/a~Latino/a Arts and Humanities Program (check with me for other options)—10%

Write a 1pg report of what you learned or what questions were raised for you from the event. Assignment is due within one week of the event's date.

4) Assignment #3: This paper is to be 750-1000 words long.

Instructions: Write an op-ed based on an issue raised in Harsha Walia's book. Embed references in op-ed (see example on TED). Come up with at least one well thought out, concrete and specific proposal for a solution.

Follow these guidelines on how to write an op-ed:

http://newsoffice.duke.edu/duke_resources/oped

Due March 16th in class – 20%

5) Class Presentation in groups of two
5 min presentations. Sign up required - 10%

Papers should be written in a 12-point standard font (e.g., Times New Roman), double spaced, and paginated.

Required Books (*Book can be purchased at UCSD bookstore. All articles are either available on TED or on the library website*)

Harsha Walia. *Undoing Border Imperialism*. Oakland: AK Press, 2013.

-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 SCHEDULE

UNIT 1: Terms and Concepts

Week 1

January 12

Introductions

Quijano, Anibal. "Coloniality of Power, Eurocentrism and Latin America."

Week 2

January 19

Nakano-Glenn, Evelyn. "Settler Colonialism as Structure: A Framework for Comparative Studies of U.S. Race and Gender Formation."

Hernández-Avila, Inés. "Indigenous Intellectual Sovereignities: A Hemispheric Convocation. An Overview and Reflections on a United States/Mexico Binational Two-Part Conference."

UNIT 2: On Blood

Week 3

January 26

Martinez, Maria Elena. "The Language, Genealogy, and Classification of 'Race' in Colonial Mexico." in *Race and Classification: The Case of Mexican America.* ed. Susan Deans-Smith and Ilona Katzew, 25-42. (LIBRARY)

Coleman, Arica. "Redefining Race and Identity: The Indian-Negro Confusion and the Changing State of Black-Indian Relations in the Nineteenth Century."

Week 4

February 2

Jolivet, Andrew. "The Reconfiguring of Creole-Indian Identity in Louisiana."

Kauanui, J. Kehaulani. "The Politics of Blood and Sovereignty in Rice v.

Cayetano."

Unit 3: The Coloniality of Being

Week 5

February 9

Wynter, Sylvia. "Unsettling the Coloniality of Being/Power/Truth/Freedom,"

Pgs. 257-283

Wynter. "Unsettling..." continued Pgs. 283-331

Week 6

February 16

Maldonado-Torres, Nelson. "Ten Theses on Decolonization."

Lugones, Maria. "The Coloniality of Gender."

Week 7

February 23

Film: TBA

UNIT 4: Decolonizing Border Imperialism

Week 8

March 2

Walia, Harsha. *Undoing Border Imperialism*. Oakland: AK Press, 2013.

Pgs xviii—78

Walia. Pgs 81-156

Week 9

March 9

Walia. Pgs. 159—244

Walia. Pgs. 249—283

Week 10

March 16

Presentations

Assignment #3 Due March 16th in Class