ETHN 200A — Departures: 
A Genealogy of Critical Racial and Ethnic Studies

Ethnic Studies 200A
Fall 2009
Wednesday 10:00 – 12:50PM, SSB 253

Ross Frank
Office: SSB 227
Phone: 534-6646
rfrank@weber.ucsd.edu

Course materials available at: http://dss.ucsd.edu/~rfrank

Course Description

In this seminar we will trace a shift in the theorizing of racial subjection, which is marked by a move away from the understanding of racial subjugation as an effect of white/Europeans’ negative reactions to the physical and mental (moral) traits of peoples of color. Through an analysis that seeks what cannot be immediately addressed by social scientific tools, we will explore the limits of the notions of cultural difference and racial difference deployed in sociological and anthropological studies.

After teasing out that which is erased by mainstream disciplinary projects, we will consider how Ethnic Studies is carving a radical intellectual position from which to respond to the challenges that global configurations of power pose to those involved in the project of global (racial) justice. We will take interest in identifying the contributions and limitations of this line of critical interrogation, and more importantly, we will consider what political strategies may dissipate the cycle of dispossession, displacement, and death that, since the initial moment of conquest, has marked the trajectory of the “others of Europe.”

Assigned books

Books ordered and available at Groundwork Books:


*readings from the Ethnic Studies Graduate Reading List
Organization

Weekly seminar assignments:

1) Discussion: attendance and active participation in the group discussions of the weekly readings during the seminar meetings.

2) Response: beginning Week 2, each Monday evening you will mail to everyone in the class a response (around 900 words/3 pages) to the assigned readings. Your response should:
   (a) identify the main concepts or formulation of the text(s)
   (b) relate these to points raised in the previous discussions
   (c) pose 3 questions for discussion in seminar

3) Presentation: lead two seminar discussions during the quarter during weeks 3-8;

4) Synthesis: write two 4-5 page response papers, each covering the assigned readings for a week in which you presented. Response papers are due at the beginning of class the week after your presentation;

5) Colloquium: we will discuss the content and presentation of each colloquium in during the seminar following.

Evaluation: 50% class discussions and 50% presentations and written work.

Guidelines for Seminar Presentations and Synthesis Papers

In your presentations and response papers, do not merely summarize the author(s)'s arguments, but instead critically reflect on the main arguments of the text in relation to the work done do far in the seminar. What are the opportunities and limitations of various comparative and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality? How do they emerge from and form in reaction to disciplinary modes of study? How do they work to define projects of global (racial) justice?
Syllabus

Readings are marked in the syllabus according to the following:
G available at Groundwork Bookstore.
W available on course website: http://weber.ucsd.edu/~rfrank

NOTE: Please do the readings prior to each week’s meeting.

Week 1: September 30 Introduction - What is Ethnic Studies?
Please read the following for the Week 1 seminar:

Week 2: October 7

Week 3: October 14

Week 4: October 21
Week 5: October 28


Week 6: November 4

Week 7: November 11

Week 8: November 18

Week 9: November 25

Week 10: December 2 Summary - Journeys