

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

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

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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:

Yen Le Espiritu, *Home Bound: Filipino American Lives across Cultures, Communities, and Countries*, University of California Press, 2003. *

Roderick Ferguson. *Aberrations in Black: Toward a Queer of Color Critique*. University of Minnesota Press, 2004. *

Avery Gordon. *Ghostly Matters : Haunting and the Sociological Imagination*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997. *

Robin D.G. Kelley, *Yo Mama's Disfunktional*, Beacon Press, 1998.

Michael Omi, and Howard Winant. *Racial Formation in the United States : From the 1960s to the 1990s*. 2nd ed. New York: Routledge, 1994. *

Denise Silva. *Toward a Global Idea of Race*. University of Minnesota Press, 2007. *

Andrea Smith, *Conquest : Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2005. *

Lisa Yoneyama. *Hiroshima Traces : Time, Space, and the Dialectics of Memory*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999.

*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 so 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:

Gulbenkian Commission on the Restructuring of the Social Sciences, "What kind of Social Sciences Shall We Now Build?" in *Open the Social Sciences : Report of the Gulbenkian Commission on the Restructuring of the Social Sciences*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1996, 70-93. **W**

Yen Le Espiritu. "Disciplines Unbound: Notes on Sociology and Ethnic Studies." *Contemporary Sociology* 28.5 (1999): 510-514. **W**

Joan Welsh, "As American as ethnic studies", Pacific News Service, Sept. 2, 1998. **W**

Tommy Craggs, "Ethnic Warfare: A bitchy academic fight within SFSU's College of Ethnic Studies puts the future of the program in question." *San Francisco Weekly*, 1/26/2005. **W**

Gregory Rodriguez, "Academia's hidden crackpots: What kind of discipline would nurture a hatefilled academic such as fired professor Ward Churchill?" *Los Angeles Times*, July 30, 2007. **W**

Week 2: October 7

Avery Gordon. *Ghostly Matters : Haunting and the Sociological Imagination*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997. **G ***

Walter Benjamin, "These on the Philosophy of History," *Illuminations*. New York, Harcourt, Brace & World, 1968, 253-264.

Week 3: October 14

Andrea Smith, *Conquest : Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2005. **G ***

Franz Fanon, "Concerning Violence" and "The Pitfalls of National Consciousness," *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York, Grove Press, 1963, 35-106, 148-205. **W**

Week 4: October 21

Michael Omi, and Howard Winant. *Racial Formation in the United States : From the 1960s to the 1990s*. 2nd ed. New York: Routledge, 1994. **G ***

Robert Ezra Park. Chapters 9-12, 14-16. *Race and Culture*. Glencoe, Ill.: Free Press, 1950, 138-176, 189-220. **W ***

Week 5: October 28

Robin D.G. Kelley, *Yo Mama's Disfunktional! Fighting the Culture Wars in Urban America*. Beacon Press, 1998. **G**

Gunnar Myrdal, Richard Sterner, and Arnold Rose. "Chapter 19: American at the Crossroads," *American Dilemma*. Boston, Beacon Press, 1956 [1948], 312-321. **W**

Oliver C. Cox. "An American Dilemma: A Mystical Approach to the Study of Race Relations." *The Journal of Negro Education* 14.2 (1945): 132-148. **W**

Oliver C. Cox. "Chapter 21: The New Orthodoxy in Theories of Race Relations," *Caste, Class, & Race; A Study In Social Dynamics*. New York, Monthly Review Press, 1959, 462-488. **W**

Week 6: November 4

Roderick Ferguson. *Aberrations in Black: Toward a Queer of Color Critique*. University of Minnesota Press, 2004. **G ***

Week 7: November 11

Yen Le Espiritu, *Home Bound: Filipino American Lives across Cultures, Communities, and Countries*, University of California Press, 2003. **G ***

Week 8: November 18

Lisa Yoneyama. *Hiroshima Traces : Time, Space, and the Dialectics of Memory*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999. **G**

Week 9: November 25

Denise Silva. *Toward a Global Idea of Race*. University of Minnesota Press, 2007. **G ***

Week 10: December 2 Summary - Journeys