**RACE AND NATIONALISM: COMPARATIVE AND THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES**

This is an advanced reading seminar on historical intersections of race and nationalisms. We will focus on cultural, ideological, and political constructions of race and nationalism and the historical contingency of these constructions. We will look at the ways in which gender and ethnicity shaped and defined race and nationalism in a succession of borderlands that became sites of contestation over identity, legitimacy, and power. Our readings are interdisciplinary and provide comparative and theoretical perspectives offered by leading scholars on the history of various racializing projects, the position and status of a variety of nationalisms and anti-colonial nationalisms, and the contemporary debates over postmodernism, postindustrialism, postcolonialism, transnationalism, and globalization. Rather than surveying the literature of this vast area of study, we will focus on selected readings that will guide us in our explorations into the history of race and nationalisms.

**Course Requirements**

1. **General:**
   Faithful attendance and lively participation in discussions.

2. **Written Work:**
   
   **First paper,** due Friday, September 18, 4:00 p.m.*: please write a review essay (1,300-1,650 words in length, approximately four-five pages) examining how the authors of the readings for weeks two and three engage with ideas about race and nationalisms. Your essay should make an argument about a theme or set of ideas important to the study of race and nationalisms. The essay by Kevin Gaines, "Race at the End of the 'American Century,'" should serve as a model for your review essay. Please adhere closely to the required length.

   **Second paper,** due Friday, December 18, 9:00 a.m.*: please write an essay (4,000-5,000 words in length, approximately twelve-fifteen pages) that addresses a question about the history of race and nationalism that is of particular interest to you and that will allow you to explore the relationship between theory and practice. You should demonstrate your command of the seminar readings and bring them into dialogue with readings in your own area of expertise. Please adhere closely to the required paper length.

3. **Co-Facilitation and In-Class Report:**
   
   Each of you will join me in co-facilitating a class discussion. For meeting in which you co-facilitate, you will read both the assigned reading and the essay listed for that week. You also will write and present a short report on the essay for later distribution to the class. Your report should last no more than 15-20 minutes, and should serve both as an introduction to the essay you’ve read and as a springboard for further discussion of the reading assigned to the entire class. Your report should: a) give a very brief overview of the essay (no more than five minutes); b) identify the main argument posed by the author or authors; c) discuss the contribution the essay makes to our
understanding of the assigned reading and of race and nationalisms, generally. Please adhere closely to the 15-20 minute limit. Your written report should be 900-1,000 words in length (approximately 2½-3 pages). Please submit both a paper and an electronic copy. Following your report, I will post the electronic copy on the Learn @ UW site for our course.

Grade Distribution:

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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Readings

The following books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore, 711 State Street, and are on reserve in Helen C. White College Library:


Fred Ho, *Wicked Theory, Naked Practice: A Fred Ho Reader*, with a Forward by Robin D.G. Kelley (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2009).

**Calendar and Reading Assignments**

**Week 1**
Sept. 3 Race & Nationalisms: Introduction

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**Racing the Nation**

**Week 2**
Sept. 10 C.L.R. James, *American Civilization*

Kevin Gaines, “Race at the End of the ‘American Century’”

**Week 3**
Sept. 17 Nikhil Pal Singh, *Black is a Country*


Sept. 18 **First paper due** no later than 4:00 p.m. in mailbox 4018 Humanities (not office)

**Week 4**
Sept. 24 Jacqueline Nassy Brown, *Dropping Anchor, Setting Sail*

Reproducing the Nation

Week 5
Oct. 1
Dana Nelson, National Manhood


Week 6
Oct. 8
Alys Eve Weinbaum, Wayward Reproductions


Week 7
Oct. 15
Ann Laura Stoler, Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power


Imperializing Projects

Week 8
Oct. 22
Mary Renda, Taking Haiti


Week 9
Oct. 29
Gary Wilder, The French Imperial Nation-State
Aimee Cesaire, Discourse on Colonialism

Week 10
Nov. 5
Greg Grandin, Empire’s Workshop

Nationalism, Transnationalism, & Subaltern Subjects

**Week 11**  
Nov. 12  Deborah A. Thomas, *Modern Blackness*  
Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects*

**Week 12**  
Nov. 19  Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe*


**Week 13**  
Nov. 26  *Thanksgiving, no class meeting*

**Week 14**  
Dec. 3  Todd Shepard, *The Invention of Decolonization*  
Neil Lazarus, *Nationalism and Cultural Practice in the Postcolonial World*


Theory & the Practice of Everyday Life

**Week 15**  
Dec. 10  Fred Ho, *Wicked Theory, Naked Practice*

**Week 16**  
Dec. 18  Final Paper Due at 9:00 a.m.* (morning!!)  
Place in mailbox 4018 Humanities (only)

*late papers receive significantly reduced grades*