

History 943-1
Fall 2009
Thursday 3:30-5:30
5257 Mosse Humanities Building

Professor Camille Guérin-Gonzales
Office Hours: Tuesday, 3:30-5:30
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RACE AND NATIONALISMS: 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:

Class Participation	50%
Discussion	
Co-Facilitation	
Report	
Short Essay	20%
Long Essay	30%

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:

C.L.R. James, *American Civilization* (New York: Blackwell Publishers, 1993).

Nikhil Pal Singh, *Black is a Country: Race and the Unfinished Struggle for Democracy* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2004).

Jacqueline Nassy Brown, *Dropping Anchor, Setting Sail: Geographies of Race in Black Liverpool* (Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press, 2005).

Dana Nelson, *National Manhood: Capitalist Citizenship and the Imagined Fraternity of White Men* (Durham, N. C.: Duke University Press, 1998).

Alys Eve Weinbaum, *Wayward Reproductions: Genealogies of Race and Nation* (Durham, N. C.: Duke University Press, 2004).

Ann Laura Stoler, *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002).

Mary Renda, *Taking Haiti: Military Occupation and the Culture of U.S. Imperialism, 1915-1940* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000)

Gary Wilder, *The French Imperial Nation-State: Negritude and Colonial Humanism between the Two World Wars* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005).

Aimee Cesaire *Discourse on Colonialism*, with a Forward by Robin D.G. Kelley (New York: Monthly Review Press, 2001).

Greg Grandin, *Empire's Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism* (New York: Metropolitan Books, 2006).

Deborah A. Thomas, *Modern Blackness: Nationalism, Globalization, and the Politics of Culture in Modern Jamaica* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2004).

Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2004).

Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2000).

Todd Shepard, *The Invention of Decolonization: The Algerian War And the Remaking of France* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2006).

Neil Lazarus, *Nationalism and Cultural Practice in the Postcolonial World* (Cambridge & New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999).

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

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*

Robin D. G. Kelley, "'But a Local Phase of a World Problem': Black History's Global Vision, 1883-1950," *Journal of American History* 86, no. 3 (Dec. 1999): 1045-1077.

David G. Gutiérrez, "The Politics of the Interstices: Reflections on Citizenship and Non-Citizenship at the Turn of the Twentieth Century," in "Transnational Migration, Race, and Citizenship," Special Issue, *Race / Ethnicity: Multidisciplinary Global Contexts* 1, no. 1 (Oct. 2007): 89-120.

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*

Brian Klopotek, Brenda Lintinger, and John Barbry, "Ordinary and Extraordinary Trauma: Race, Indigeneity, and Hurricane Katrina in Tunica-Biloxi History," *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 32, no. 2 (2008): 55-77.

Reproducing the Nation

Week 5

Oct. 1

Dana Nelson, *National Manhood*

Eric Lott, "The Seeming Counterfeit": Racial Politics and Early Blackface Minstrelsy, *American Quarterly* 43, no. 2 (June 1991): 223-254.

Week 6

Oct. 8

Alys Eve Weinbaum, *Wayward Reproductions*

Barbara Fields, "Of Rogues and Geldings," *American Historical Review* 108, no. 5 (Dec. 2003): 1397-1405.

Barbara Fields, "Whiteness, Racism, and Identity," *International Labor and Working-Class History* 60 (Fall 2001): 48-56.

Week 7

Oct. 15

Ann Laura Stoler, *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power*

Anne McClintock, "Family Feuds: Gender, Nationalism and the Family," in "Nationalisms and National Identities," Special Issue, *Feminist Review*, no. 44 (Summer 1993): 61- 80.

Imperializing Projects

Week 8

Oct. 22

Mary Renda, *Taking Haiti*

Gordon H. Chang, "Whose 'Barbarism'? Whose 'Treachery'? Race and Civilization in the Unknown United States-Korea War of 1871," *Journal of American History* 89, no. 4 (March 2003): 1331-1365.

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*

Julianne Burton, "Don (Juanito) Duck and the Imperial-Patriarchal Unconscious: Disney Studios, the Good Neighbor Policy, and the Packaging of Latin America," in *Nationalisms and Sexualities*, ed. Andrew Parker, Mary Russo, Doris Sommer, and Patricia Yaeger (New York: Routledge, 1991), 21-41.

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*

Florencia E. Mallon, "The Promise and Dilemma of Subaltern Studies: Perspectives from Latin American History," *American Historical Review* 99, no. 5 (Dec. 1994): 1491-1515.

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*

Masao Miyoshi, "A Borderless World? From Colonialism to Transnationalism and the Decline of the Nation-State," *Critical Inquiry* 19, no. 4. (Summer 1993): 726-751.

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*