Ethnic Studies 407/507
Approaches to Race in Globalization and Postcolonial Studies
M W 2-3:20 PM
McKenzie 121

Instructor Irmary Reyes-Santos
Office Hours: M W 3:30 PM-5:00 PM at McKenzie 364, and by appointment
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Course Description
This advanced course examines analytical frameworks provided by Globalization and Postcolonial Studies. Our goal is to address the following question: How does race operate in the world today? In particular, we will explore how cultural production helps us articulate potential responses. Recognizing the contributions of both fields to intellectual debates in the past twenty years, we seek to articulate approaches to race in the present that account for international political, economic, and cultural dynamics. In our conversations, we point to the main questions of each field and their related key concepts. During the quarter, you will be expected to think critically, ask pertinent questions, engage in productive conversations with your peers, read academic and cultural texts, and define and apply concepts. Each student will develop a research or community-action project. These projects will be integral components of our classroom discussions.

Required Texts (Bookstore, Knight Course Reserves, and Ethnic Studies Office)
- A Brief History of Neoliberalism (David Harvey)
- A Small Place (Jamaica Kincaid)
- The Crystal Frontier (Carlos Fuentes)
- Colonialism/Postcolonialism (Ania Loomba)
- World Bank Literature (Ed. Amitava Kumar)
- Sun, Sex, and Gold (Ed. Kamala Kempadoo)
- Colonial Discourse and Post-colonial Theory (Ed. Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman)
- Globalization and Race (Ed. Kamari Maxine Clarke and Deborah A. Thomas)
- If you have any difficulties obtaining the readings (for financial or technological reasons) please speak with the instructor and the necessary arrangements will be made.
- Any additional readings will be found in the Ethnic Studies Office.

You must bring a hard copy of the assigned readings for every seminar. Read the assigned texts before seminar.

Course Policies
Creating a safe learning environment:
The student is responsible for attending every discussion section, keeping up with all assigned readings, and participating actively in conversations in the classroom. You must confront the
challenge of the course by engaging with your teachers and classmates. Listen carefully and support your comments through references to the readings and our conversations. In your comments and body language, you MUST show RESPECT for your instructor and peers. When someone is speaking, everyone listens. I reserve the right to ask you to leave the room, and/or drop the course, if you have disrupted classroom dynamics or disrespected your teachers and/or classmates. I must ensure that the classroom is a safe space for all. For this reason, you will have a strictly professional relationship with the instructor.

See campus policy on these matters at http://aaeo.uoregon.edu and http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/rules/OARS_500/OAR_571/571_004.html

For campus regulations regarding academic dishonesty, classroom disruption, alcohol and drug violations, theft, physical assault, and sexual misconduct, see the Office of Student Judicial Affairs website: http://studentlife.edu/programs/student_judi_affairs/index.htm. Also see attached campus policy on affirmative action and equal opportunity.

The Seminar:
You should approach the lectures as models for understanding the texts. You should be prepared to articulate the analytical frameworks presented in lecture in your assignments. Discussion sections are crucial to develop in-depth analysis of the themes addressed by the texts and my lecture. I request that you avoid using your personal computers in lecture and section, unless it is necessary. They tend to be a distraction to you as well as your classmates. If you miss a lecture, or section, it is your responsibility to get notes from classmates and know the material. You can also come to see any of us during office hours to discuss material you have missed. Lecture notes will not be available by email or e-reserves. Each student will be expected to share a question about the readings every week.

Office hours:
The classroom and office hours are the spaces and time-slots allocated to meet your intellectual needs. I will schedule appointments, if necessary. I encourage you to come to my office at least once in the quarter to talk about the readings, the lecture, or assignments. When an assignment is due or an exam approaching, I may decide to set strict time-slots for individual students during my office hours. Therefore, if you have any questions, concerns, or just need to discuss anything at length with me, you should plan to meet before high demand periods.

Email policy:
Email is not the primary medium to contact me. I should not be expected to respond to email immediately. Since not all of you have internet access all the time, it would be an unfair advantage for those who do to rely on email for communication. Moreover, the instructor has other responsibilities (preparing class, grading, writing), which are also part of her responsibilities and occupy her time outside the classroom and the office. You can email to set appointments, ask specific questions about the reading or the discussion, or send the instructor information about any health-related or personal situation affecting your academic performance.

Email Etiquette (based on Melissa Baird’s syllabus):
Please remember that correspondence by email is another way that you participate in the class. Therefore, it is important to ensure that your email interactions with us are professional and
courteous. Please include a subject line. Do not send papers to our email addresses. Do not email us questions which are already answered by the syllabus.

**Evaluation:**
Attendance and Participation 30 %
(includes three film showings)
Group Presentation 10 %
Project presentation 10 %
Two Writing Assignments [research paper abstract and outline (+ bibliography and 10 annotated sources)] 20 %
Final Project [abstract, outline, annotated bibliography, draft, peer reviews, final draft] 30 %

You will be evaluated on the skills mentioned in the course description (first page).

**Attendance and Participation**
Your grade for attendance and participation requires active participation and completing the assigned homework. If you do not speak for the whole quarter in section nor go to office hours, do expect to receive a 0 in participation. If you show up to section 20 minutes late, it will be counted as an absence. If you arrive late to class, just seat yourself quietly and wait until the class is over to ask what you missed. I will also expect you to participate in the film series “Perspectives on Globalization.”

**Late papers**
Late assignments will be marked down one-half letter grade for every day, unless you have a special arrangement with the instructor, which would only be possible under very extenuating circumstances. There are no make-up quizzes or examinations. You will be asked to produce a doctor’s note if an exception is allowed. You cannot drop off late papers at the Ethnic Studies office or my office. You will have to wait until the next lecture.

**Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty**
I will not tolerate any kind of academic dishonesty. Familiarize yourself with campus policy with regards to academic dishonesty: [http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/](http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/)
Punishment could include an F for the assignment, an F or withdrawal from the course, and suspension or expulsion from the university. I actively investigate any sign of academic dishonesty in my grading.

**Health Conditions and Disability Services**
If you have a documented health condition or experience any physical or emotional difficulties which impede your full participation in the course, please meet with me soon. You may be asked to bring a notification letter from Disability Services outlining your approved accommodations.

**Course Calendar:**

**Week 1: Introduction: Why Globalization and Postcolonial Studies?**

Monday Jan. 8:
- Syllabus
Introduction to the course

Wednesday Jan. 10:
- Thomas Friedman, from *The World is Flat*: Introduction (Ethnic Studies Office)
- Eric Williams, “Economics, not Racism, as the Root of Slavery” (Ethnic Studies Office)
- [http://centralamerica.com/belize/hotels/victoria.htm](http://centralamerica.com/belize/hotels/victoria.htm)

**Week 2: Globalization Studies**
**Key Terms: Neoliberalism, Multiculturalism**

Monday Jan. 15: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, NO CLASS

**Recommended Event:**
Tuesday, Jan. 16
- Talk, “The Horror of Globalization,” Knight Browsing Room, 4:00PM

Wednesday Jan. 17:
- David Harvey, from *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*: “The Construction of Consent,” “The Neoliberal State”
- Film Series, 6:00 PM-9:30PM, See attached itinerary

**Week 3: Postcolonial Studies**
**Key Terms: Colonialism, Postcolonialism, Nationalism, Racial and Cultural Difference**

Monday Jan. 22:
- Annia Loomba, from *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*: “Defining the Terms,” “Constructing Racial and Cultural Difference,” “Race, Class, and Colonialism,” “Gender, Sexuality, and Colonial Discourse,” “Feminism, Nationalism, and Postcolonialism”

Wednesday Jan. 24:
- [http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/cafta/Sweatshops.html](http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/cafta/Sweatshops.html) (Sweatshops)

**Assignment due on Thursday, Feb. 1 by noon (Ethnic Studies Office).**

**Week 4: Culture: Object**
**Key Terms: Tourism, African Diaspora, Race, Class, Discourse, Narrative**

Monday Jan. 29:
- Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place*
George Lipsitz, “The Possesive Investment in Whiteness”

Wednesday Jan. 31:
- Raymond Codrington, “The Homegrown: Rap, Race, and Class in London” (Maxine Clarke)
- Film Series, 6:00PM-9:00PM, See attached itinerary

**Week 5: Culture: Analytical Framework**
**Key Terms: Narratives, Literature, Postcolonial Nation-State, Cultural Studies**

Monday Feb. 5:
- Suzanne Bergeron, “Challenging the World Bank’s Narrative of Inclusion”
- Gautam Premnath, “The Weak Sovereignty of the Postcolonial Nation-State”

Wednesday Feb. 7:
- Vijay Prashad, “Second-Hand Dreams”

**Week 6: Labor**
**Key Terms: Migration, Sex Work**

Monday Feb. 12:
- Carlos Fuentes, from *The Crystal Frontier*: “Río Grande, Río Bravo”
- Amalia Cabezas, “Women’s Work is Never Done: Sex Tourism in Sosúa” (Kempadoo)
- Medley and Carroll, “Whooping it Up for Rational Prosperity,” (Kumar)

Wednesday Feb. 14:
- Continue discussion
- Film Series, 6:00PM-9:00PM, See attached itinerary

**Week 7: Race**
**Key Terms: Negritude, National Culture**

Monday Feb. 19:
- Léopold Sédar Senghor, “Negritude,” (Patrick Williams)
- Franz Fanon, “On National Culture,” (Patrick Williams)
- Amilcar Cabral, “National Liberation,” (Patrick Williams)

Wednesday Feb. 21
o Continue discussion

Assignment due on Friday, Feb. 23 by noon (Ethnic Studies Office)

**Week 8: Race**

**Key Terms:** Blanqueamiento, Gentrification, Transnational Capital, Indigeneity

Monday Feb. 26:
- Isar Godreau, “Folkloric ‘Others’” (Maxine Clarke)
- Analisa Taylor, “The Use of Indigenismo” (Ethnic Studies Office)

Wednesday Feb. 28:
- New York Times, “The Conquest of America (North and South)”
- Film Series, 6:00PM-9:00PM, See attached itinerary

**Week 9: Imperialism?: Revisiting Kincaid, Fuentes, the World Bank, CAFTA, Iraq**

**Key Terms:** Imperialism, Neo-colonialism, Freedom, Open Market, International Structures

Monday Mar. 5:
- Laura Chrisman, “The Imperial Unconscious?: Representations of Imperial Discourse” (Patrick Williams)

Wednesday Mar. 7:

**Week 10: In-Class Workshops**

Monday Mar. 12:
- Project Presentations

Wednesday Mar. 14:
- Project Presentations
Film Series: “Perspectives on Globalization: Culture, Labor, Politics.”
This event will take place every other Wednesday during the Winter quarter. We will meet in McKenzie 240A at 6:00PM. Refreshments will be served.

Facilitator: Prof. Sangita Gopal
Film: “Dil Se” (From the Heart), Dir. Mani Ratman, 1998, 3 hours
Amar Varma, a producer for Indian news radio, meets an enigmatic woman at a railroad station and then again at a hill station. He falls in love with her, but the woman, who calls herself Meghna, rejects and leaves him although she seems to be interested. Later, Varma agrees to marry his family's choice, Preeti. But suddenly Meghna is back, and what is the secret that she holds? (Source: www.imdb.com)

II. Transnational Capital and Governance (Wed., Jan. 31st)
Facilitator: Prof. Michael Hames-Garcia
Film: “Life and Debt,” Dir. Stephanie Black, 2001, 86 minutes
Life & Debt is a woven tapestry of sequences focusing on the stories of individual Jamaicans whose strategies for survival and parameters of day-to-day existence are determined by the U.S. and other foreign economic agendas. By combining traditional documentary telling with a stylized narrative framework, the complexity of international lending, structural adjustment policies and free trade will be understood in the context of the day-to-day realities of the people whose lives they impact. (Source: www.lifeanddebt.com)

III. Faces of Global Migrant Labor (Wed., Feb. 14th)
Facilitator: Prof. Lamia Karim
Film #1: “My Migrant Soul,” Dir. Yasmine Kabir, 2000, 35 minutes
A video documentary by Yasmine Kabir, is about Shahjahan Babu, a young migrant worker from Bangladesh, who left for Malaysia in search of work. Having sold his only piece of property and virtually mortgaging his life - the young man arrives in the host country to experience only disillusionment, misery and frustration. (Source: www.drishtipat.org)
Film #2: “Fun@Sun: Making of a Global Workforce,” 2006, Dir. Gautam Santi, 32 minutes
Fun@Sun depicts another typical feature of the Indian outsourcing industry—'soft skills' training programs, including communication skills and cross-cultural sensitivity classes. The film depicts multiple ways in which 'culture' is manufactured, appropriated and deployed in the new global workplace. (Source: Prof. Karim)

IV. Interrogating Culture (Wed., Feb. 28th)
Facilitator: Prof. David Li
Film: “Life Show,” Dir. Huo Jianqi, 2005, 1 hr. 47 minutes
Adapted from a famous novel written by novelist Chi Li, Life Show tells the story of Lai Shuang Yang (Tao Hong), who runs a small restaurant in an old quarter of Shanghai. While she isn't a mother, she is in many ways the keeper of her family, struggling to keep her brother out of trouble with drugs and most importantly trying to regain possession of the family home that was lost during the Chinese Cultural Revolution. (Source: http://www.razor3donline.com/lifeshow.html)