

# SYA 6933: CRITICAL RACE THEORY

Spring 2018, T 2:30 – 5:00PM

Class #: 9282

Bellamy Building (BEL) 519

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Office Location: Bellamy Building (BEL) 518

Office Hours: W 11:30AM - 2:30PM (or by appointment)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Since the 1980s, critical race theorists have presented alternative perspectives that seek connections between race, gender, class, sexuality, and the law. By investigating the facets of white supremacy and its subordination of non-white racialized social groups, critical race theorists aim to present analyses of power differentials in order to both encourage and participate in collective action that challenges such power differentials.

To expand upon and contrast the initial perspectives on critical race theory offered by scholars such as Derrick Bell, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Richard Delgado, Mari Matsuda, and Dorothy E. Roberts, we will discuss questions related to the nature and process of global white supremacy, tracing how modern iterations of race and racism have evolved. This course will engage with a variety of texts that provide a “critical” approach to theorizing race, ethnicity, racism, colonialism and nationalism in a primarily Western context.

Many of the readings this semester will stem from academic movements that built the foundations of fields such as critical race theory, critical whiteness studies, and postcolonial theory, among others. Attention will be given to how the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, and class are experienced both within and outside the U.S., and how such experiences and their theorizations challenge hegemonic racial constructions and their consequences.

## COURSE PHILOSOPHY

There are several concerns that will guide this course:

- We will take seriously the colonial project as a starting point in the evolution of understandings *and* production of modern ideas of race.
- We will think about modernity as being inherently racialized, particularly the concepts of legality, freedom, citizenship, civilization, etc.
- This course should be a critique of the framing of baseline theoretical training; we will work to not reproduce inequalities, as race is not something that should be added in later or as a footnote. (It is not sufficient to read just Patricia Hill Collins and suggest that you have done intersectionality; as difficult as these readings will be, the easy part is reading the books and articles. The very process of trying to wrestle with difficult concepts is how you learn.)

- **Do not let the constraints of the discipline stop you from being the radical you want to be.** You do not have to compromise for 30 years before you can start to challenge the inherent inequalities of this discipline. As Stuart Hall suggested, the difference between the academic and the intellectual is that you are not disciplined by the discipline.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Anzaldúa, Gloria. 2012. *Borderlands/La frontera*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (ISBN 978-1879960855).

Blaut, J. M. 1993. *The Colonizer's Model of the World: Geographical Diffusion and Eurocentric History* (ISBN 978-0898623482).

Collins, Patricia Hill. 1990 (2008). *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition (ISBN 978-0415964722).

Fanon, Frantz. 1952 (2008). *Black Skin, White Masks* (ISBN 978-0802143006).

McClintock, Anne. 1995. *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest* (ISBN 978-0415908900).

Puwar, Nirmal. 2004. *Space Invaders: Race, Gender, and Bodies Out of Place* (ISBN 978-1859736593).

Roberts, Dorothy E. 1998. *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty*, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition (ISBN 978-0679758693).

Said, Edward. 1979. *Orientalism*, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition (ISBN 978-0394740676).

Salaita, Steven. 2016. *Inter/Nationalism: Decolonizing Native America and Palestine* (ISBN 978-1517901424).

## ASSIGNMENTS

**MIDTERM ESSAY EXAM (30%):** This exam will consist of essay questions that incorporate concepts from readings from the first half of the semester. The questions will be provided in class on **Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018**; students will have until **March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 2PM** to submit the typed (1-in margins, 12-pt font, stapled) responses to me in my office.

**FINAL PAPER (40%):** Students will propose a final paper (10-12 pages) that explores theoretical question(s) rooted in the texts covered this semester. **Papers may be related to individual research interests and must receive approval by April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

**WEEKLY DISCUSSION LEADER/READING JOURNALS (30%):** Every week, students will be expected to produce reading journals on the given week's readings, summarizing the primary arguments and analyses. Journals will also relate the concepts covered to broader individual research interests (an example shall be provided). During one week of the semester, each student will facilitate class discussion.

## COURSE READINGS

All readings not located in the required texts will either be available via the University library or will be located on Canvas (as indicated by asterisk).

DATE	TEXTS
	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>
Tue, Jan 9	<p>* <i>The 1977 Combahee River Collective Statement</i></p> <p>“The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Combahee River Collective” panel discussion at Socialism Conference 2017 [video stream]  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/socialismconf/videos/10154425012002924/">https://www.facebook.com/socialismconf/videos/10154425012002924/</a></p>
Tue, Jan 16	<p>Crenshaw, Kimberlé. 1991. “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color.” <i>Stanford Law Review</i>, 43(6); 1241-1299.</p> <p>Harris, Cheryl. 1993. “Whiteness as Property.” <i>Harvard Law Review</i>, 106(8); 1707-1791.</p> <p>*Spivak, Gayatri. 1988. “Can the Subaltern Speak?” in <i>Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture</i>, Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg (Eds.).</p>
Tue, Jan 23	Blaut, J. M. 1993. <i>The Colonizer’s Model of the World: Geographical Diffusion and Eurocentric History</i> .
Tue, Jan 30	McClintock, Anne. 1995. <i>Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest</i> . [Introduction, Chapters 1-6, Postscript]
Tue, Feb 6	<p>Anderson, Carol. “Ferguson isn’t about black rage against cops. It’s white rage against progress.” <i>The Washington Post</i>, 29 August 2014.</p> <p>Leonardo, Zeus. 2004. “The Color of Supremacy: Beyond the discourse of ‘white privilege’.” <i>Educational Philosophy and Theory</i>, 26(2); 137-152.</p> <p>Lewis, Amanda E. 2004. “‘What Group?’ Studying Whites and Whiteness in the Era of ‘Color-Blindness’.” <i>Sociological Theory</i>, 22(4); 623-646.</p> <p>Zack, Naomi. 2016. “The Idea of White Privilege, Rights, and Gender: Replies to My Critics.” <i>Radical Philosophy Review</i>, 19(3); 701-710.</p>
Tue, Feb 13	Fanon, Frantz. 1952/2008. <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i> .
Tue, Feb 20	Collins, Patricia Hill. 1990/2008. <i>Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment</i> .
	<b>MIDTERM EXAM QUESTIONS PROVIDED</b>

Tue, Feb 28	Puwar, Nirmal. 2004. <i>Space Invaders: Race, Gender, and Bodies Out of Place</i>
Tue, Mar 6	<b>NO CLASS – MIDTERM DUE BY FRIDAY MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2PM</b>
<b>MAR 12-16</b>	<b>NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK</b>
Tue, Mar 20	<p>Golash-Boza, Tanya. 2016. "A Critical and Comprehensive Sociological Theory of Race and Racism." <i>Sociology of Race and Ethnicity</i>, 2(2); 129-141.</p> <p>Han, Chong-suk. 2008. "No fats, femmes, or Asians: The utility of critical race theory in examining the role of gay stock stories in the marginalization of Asian men." <i>Contemporary Justice Review</i>, 11(1), 11-12.</p> <p>Hancock, Ange-Marie. 2005. "W.E.B. Du Bois: Intellectual Forefather of Intersectionality?" <i>Souls</i>, 7(3-4), 74-84.</p>
Tue, Mar 27	Roberts, Dorothy E. 1998. <i>Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty</i> .
Tue, Apr 3	<p>Said, Edward. 1979/1994. <i>Orientalism</i>. [Introduction, Ch 1, Afterword to 1994 ed]</p> <p>*Bozarslan, Hamit. 2008. "Kurds and the Turkish State" pp. 333-356 in <i>The Cambridge History of Turkey</i> (R. Kasaba, ed). Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>*Gündogan, Azat. 2015. "Space, state-making and contentious Kurdish politics in the East of Turkey," pp. 27-62 in <i>The Kurdish Issue in Turkey: A Spatial Perspective</i> (J. Jongerden and Z. Gambetti, eds.). Routledge.</p> <p><b>Guest Lecture: Dr. Azat Gündogan</b></p>
Tue, Apr 10	<p>Salaita, Steven. 2016. <i>Inter/Nationalism: Decolonizing Native America and Palestine</i>.</p> <p>Walia, Harsha. "Land is a Relationship': In interview with Glen Coulthard, on Indigenous nationhood." <i>Rabble.ca</i>, 21 January 2015.</p>
Tue, Apr 17	Anzaldúa, Gloria. 2012. <i>Borderlands/La frontera</i> .
Tue, Apr 24	<b>NO CLASS – WORK ON FINAL PAPERS</b>

**FINAL PAPER DUE: TUESDAY, MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 12PM**