

SYA 6933: CRITICAL RACE THEORY

Spring 2021, Class Number: 12791
Tuesdays 2:00 – 4:30PM EST via Zoom

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Drop-in Virtual Office Hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays, Noon – 1:00PM EST (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*, 4th Edition (ISBN 978-1879960855).
- Collins, Patricia Hill. 2000. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment* (ISBN 978-0415964722).
- Fanon, Frantz. 2008. *Black Skin, White Masks* (ISBN 978-0802143006).
- Fields, Karen E. and Barbara J. Fields. 2014. *Racecraft: The Soul of Inequality in American Life* (ISBN 978-1781683132)
- 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*, 1st Edition (ISBN 978-0679758693).
- Said, Edward. 1979. *Orientalism*, 25th 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 on **Tuesday, February 23rd, 2021**; students will have until **March 5th, 2021 at 2PM** to submit the typed (1-in margins, 12-pt font, .doc or .docx format) responses to me via Canvas.

FINAL PAPER (40%): Students will propose and write a final paper (10-12 pages) that explores theoretical question(s) rooted in the texts covered this semester. **I encourage you to write papers related to individual research interests; paper topics must receive approval by March 31st, 2021.** The final paper should be submitted typed (1-in margins, 12-pt font, .doc or .docx format) to me via Canvas **by April 20th, 2021 at 12PM.**

WEEKLY DISCUSSION LEADER/READING JOURNALS (30%): Students will be expected to produce reading journals on the given week's readings, summarizing the primary arguments and analyses. These journals (typed, 1-in margins, 12-pt font, .doc or .docx format) will be submitted to me right before class via Canvas and will be returned feedback within one week. Examples of reading journals and guidelines are available under "Modules" on Canvas. **No more than six (6) journals should be submitted by the end of the semester.** Journals should also relate the concepts covered to your 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
WEEK 1 (Jan 6)	INTRODUCTION (Go over syllabus, confirm enrollment, set discussion leaders)
WEEK 2 (Jan 12)	<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>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>Meghii, Ali. 2020. "Just what is critical race theory, and what is it doing in British sociology? From 'BritCrit' to the racialized social system approach." <i>The British Journal of Sociology</i>. DOI 10.1111/1468-4446.12801</p> <p>Miller, Arianne E. and Lawrence Josephs. 2009. "Whiteness as Pathological Narcissism." <i>Contemporary Psychoanalysis</i>, 45(1); 93-119.</p> <p><i>Recommended:</i> *Glickman, Lawrence. 2020. "How White Backlash Controls American Progress." <i>The Atlantic</i>.</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>
WEEK 3 (Jan 19)	<p>*<i>The 1977 Combahee River Collective Statement</i></p> <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> <p><i>Recommended:</i> "The 40th Anniversary of the Combahee River Collective" panel discussion at Socialism Conference 2017 [video stream] https://www.facebook.com/socialismconf/videos/10154425012002924/</p> <p>Hancock, Ange-Marie. 2005. "W.E.B. Du Bois: Intellectual Forefather of Intersectionality?" <i>Souls</i>, 7(3-4), 74-84.</p>
WEEK 4 (Jan 26)	Collins, Patricia Hill. 2000. <i>Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment</i> .

<p>WEEK 5 (Feb 2)</p>	<p>McClintock, Anne. 1995. <i>Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest</i>. [Introduction, Chapters 1-6, Postscript]</p> <p><i>Recommended:</i> Glenn, Evelyn Nakano. 2015. "Settler Colonialism as Structure: A Framework for Comparative Studies of U.S. Race and Gender Formation." <i>Sociology of Race and Ethnicity</i>, 1(1); 52-72.</p>
<p>WEEK 6 (Feb 9)</p>	<p>Fanon, Frantz. 2008. <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i>.</p>
<p>WEEK 7 (Feb 16)</p>	<p>Fields, Karen E. and Barbara J. Fields. 2014. <i>Racecraft: The Soul of Inequality in American Life</i>.</p>
<p>WEEK 8 (Feb 23)</p>	<p>MIDTERM EXAM QUESTIONS PROVIDED</p> <p>Puwar, Nirmal. 2004. <i>Space Invaders: Race, Gender, and Bodies Out of Place</i></p>
<p>WEEK 9 (Mar 2)</p>	<p>NO CLASS – MIDTERM DUE VIA CANVAS BY FRIDAY MARCH 5TH, 2PM</p>
<p>WEEK 10 (Mar 9)</p>	<p>Maghbooleh, Neda. 2020. "From White to What? MENA and Iranian American non-white Reflected Race." <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i>, 43(4); 613-631.</p> <p>Ocampo, Anthony Christian. 2014. "Are second-generation Filipinos 'becoming' Asian American or Latino? Historical colonialism, culture and panethnicity." <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i>, 37(3); 425-445.</p> <p>Pierre, Jemima. 2004. "Black Immigrants in the United States and the 'Cultural Narratives' of Ethnicity." <i>Identities</i>, 11(2); 141-170.</p> <p><i>Recommended:</i> *Shaw, Vivian. 2017. "'We Are Already Living Together': Race, Collective Struggle, and the Reawakened Nation in Post-3/11 Japan," pp. 59-76 in <i>Precarious Belongings: Affect and Nationalism in Asia</i> (Chih-Ming Wang and Daniel PS Goh, Eds.) Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.</p>
<p>WEEK 11 (Mar 16)</p>	<p>Roberts, Dorothy E. 1998. <i>Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty</i>.</p>
<p>WEEK 12 (Mar 23)</p>	<p>GUEST LECTURE: Dr. Azat Gündogan</p> <p>Said, Edward. 1994. <i>Orientalism</i>. [Preface, Introduction, Ch 1, Afterword]</p> <p>*Other readings TBA</p>

<p>WEEK 13 (Mar 30)</p>	<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>
<p>WEEK 14 (Apr 6)</p>	<p>Anzaldúa, Gloria. 2012. <i>Borderlands/La frontera</i>.</p>
<p>WEEK 15 (Apr 13)</p>	<p>NO CLASS (Work on final papers)</p>

FINAL PAPER DUE: TUESDAY, APRIL 20TH, AT 12PM VIA CANVAS