

History 943
Spring 2008
Thursday 11:00-1:00
5257 Mosse Humanities Building

Professor Camille Guérin-Gonzales
Office Hours: Thursdays, 4:00-6:00
4119 Mosse Humanities Building
cgueringonza@wisc.edu, 263-1823

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 offer 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 participation in discussions.

2. Written Work:

First paper, due March 13: a review essay (1,200-1,500 words in length, approximately four-five pages) of Dana Nelson, *National Manhood*; Alys Weinbaum, *Wayward Reproduction*; and Pablo Mitchell, *Coyote Nation* around the theme, “Reproducing the Nation.” Your essay should incorporate insights and arguments about “racing the nation” and “theorizing race and nationalism” covered in weeks 2-5. Please adhere closely to the required paper length (this is a common length requirement for submissions of review essays for publication in journals).

Second paper, due May 15*: an essay (5,000-6,000 words in length, approximately seventeen-twenty pages) on one of the themes relating to race and nationalisms that we address in this course. Your paper should be based on the seminar readings. It is not intended to be a research paper, although you may incorporate additional materials once you have discussed relevant course readings. You should identify an important question related to race and nationalisms and then develop an argument that offers an original contribution to our understanding of race and nationalisms. Please adhere closely to the required paper length (this is a common length requirement for submission of shorter articles for publication in journals and anthologies).

3. Co-Facilitation and In-Class Report:

Each of you will join me in co-facilitating a class discussion. In the week that you co-facilitate, you will read both the assigned reading and the supplemental reading. You also will present a short report on the

supplemental reading. Your report should last *no more* than 15-20 minutes, and it should serve as both an introduction to the book you've read and as a springboard for further discussion of the readings assigned to the entire class. In other words, you will be responsible for making connections between the reading you have done on your own and the assigned weekly readings. Your report should: a) give a very brief overview of the book (no more than *five* minutes); b) situate the book in the historiography of race and nationalisms; and c) evaluate its contribution to our understanding of race and nationalisms. Please adhere closely to the 15-20 minute limit.

Grade Distribution:

Class Participation (discussion, co-facilitation, report):	50%
First writing assignment (critical review essay):	20%
Second writing assignment (article-length paper):	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.

Required:

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

James Sidbury, *Becoming African in America: Race and Nation in the Early Black Atlantic* (Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press, 2007).

Fred Cooper, *Colonialism in Question: Theory, Knowledge, History* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005).

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

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).

Pablo Mitchell, *Coyote Nation: Sexuality, Race, and Conquest in Modernizing New Mexico, 1880-1920* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005).

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

Barbara Bush, *Imperialism, Race, and Resistance: Africa and Britain, 1919-1945* (London & New York: Routledge, 1999).

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

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

Eiichiro Azuma, *Between Two Empires: Race, History, and Transnationalism in Japanese America* (Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press, 2005).

Ariel Dorfman, *Heading South, Looking North: A Bilingual Journey* (New York: Penguin, 1999).

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

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

Sheila Whiteley, Andy Bennett, and Stan Hawkins, eds., *Music, Place, and Space: Popular Music and Cultural Identity* (Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2004).

Reports

Greg Grandin, *The Last Colonial Massacre: Latin America in the Cold War* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004).

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

C. L. R. James, *Beyond a Boundary* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1993, 1983).

Edward Said, *The Politics of Dispossession: The Struggle for Palestinian Self-Determination, 1969-1994* (New York: Pantheon, 1994).

Ali Behdad, *A Forgetful Nation: On Immigration and Cultural Identity in the United States* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2005).

Calendar and Reading Assignments

Week 1
January 24

Race and Nationalisms: Introduction

“Racing the Nation”

Week 2
January 31

Nikhil Pal Singh, *Black is a Country: Race and the Unfinished Struggle for Democracy*

Week 3
February 7

James Sidbury, *Becoming African in America: Race and Nation in the Early Black Atlantic*

“Theorizing Race and Nationalisms”

Week 4
February 14

Fred Cooper, *Colonialism in Question: Theory, Knowledge, History*

Week 5
February 21

Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*

“Reproducing the Nation”

Week 6
February 28

Dana Nelson, *National Manhood: Capitalist Citizenship and the Imagined Fraternity of White Men*

Week 7
March 6

Alys Eve Weinbaum, *Wayward Reproductions: Genealogies of Race and Nation*

Week 8
March 13

Pablo Mitchell, *Coyote Nation: Sexuality, Race, and Conquest in Modernizing New Mexico, 1880-1920*

Week 9:
March 20

Spring Break

“Imperializing Projects”

Week 10
March 27

Greg Grandin, *Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism*

Report: Greg Grandin, *The Last Colonial Massacre: Latin America in the Cold War*

Week 11

April 3

Barbara Bush, *Imperialism, Race, and Resistance: Africa and Britain, 1919-1945*

Week 12:

April 10

Gary Wilder, *The French Imperial Nation-State*

Report: Todd Shepard, *The Invention of Decolonization: The Algerian War and the Remaking of France*

Week 13

April 17

Neil Lazarus, *Nationalism and Cultural Practice in the Postcolonial World.*

Report: C. L. R. James, *Beyond a Boundary*

“Memory and the ‘History of Forgetting’”

Week 14

April 24

Eiichiro Azuma, *Between Two Empires: Race, History, and Transnationalism in Japanese America*

Ariel Dorfman, *Heading South, Looking North: A Bilingual Journey*

Report: Edward Said, *The Politics of Dispossession: The Struggle for Palestinian Self-Determination, 1969-1994*

Week 15

May 1

Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*

Report: Ali Behdad, *A Forgetful Nation*

“Diasporic Music”

Week 16

May 8

Deborah A. Thomas, *Modern Blackness: Nationalism, Globalization, and the Politics of Culture in Modern Jamaica*

Sheila Whiteley, Andy Bennett, and Stan Hawkins, eds., *Music, Place, and Space: Popular Music and Cultural Identity*

Final Paper Due May 15, 4:00 p.m.*

**late papers receive significantly reduced grades*