

FMST 145: Racial and Gender Formations Summer Session 2, 2016

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Office Hours: MW 8:30-9 and by appointment

Course Meets: MW 9-12:30

Location: Humanities and Social Sciences 250

Course Description

How have power and difference shaped the way society is organized? How have power and difference shaped our individual sense of self and our personal circumstances? This course introduces students to conceptual and discursive tools of critical race and gender analysis that help us understand the world around us. We will interrogate how race, class and gender/sexuality operate as organizing principles of society (differently in different contexts, with and through other categories of difference like ethnicity, citizenship, and coloniality). The course interrogates the mutually constitutive ways institutions and ideologies are legitimated, as well as how institutions and ideologies help shape individual and collective identities.

Required Texts

Books

Octavia Butler, *Kindred*

France Winddance Twine, *Outsourcing the Womb*

All books are available at the Literary Guillotine, 204 Locust St.

Phone: 831-457-1195.

Articles – To be posted on the e-commons site for the course (please print out articles and bring them to class, or have a computer/tablet on which you can access the readings)

You must check the e-commons site regularly for announcements, assignments, and any additional materials I post throughout the quarter. You can access this information online:

<https://ecommons.ucsc.edu/xsl-portal>

The site will provide you with a link to the course and instructions for logging in.

Course Requirements and Evaluation Guidelines

Attendance and Participation 15%

Participation: Since this is a small course and will be run like a seminar, the success of the class depends on your active participation. I expect you to come to class having read and thought about *all* of the materials. This means being ready for discussion every time.

Attendance: You are required to attend class, but you may miss up to one meeting – excused, or unexcused – without penalty. After this, your overall grade for the course will drop by one grade increment (ex. If you have otherwise earned an A in the course, you will receive an A-, etc.). If you miss a meeting, it is your responsibility to inform yourself of any assignments/handouts/ changes to the syllabus you will have missed. I have noted the major handouts and sign-up dates on the schedule. Any assignments are due PRIOR to the start of class at 9am if these are due on the date you are unable to attend class.

Midterm 25% - This is a take-home exam that will be due in my inbox by 12:30 on Weds. August 10th. The exam will be posted on the ecommons site on Tuesday August 9th at 12:30 pm. It will consist of short answer/essay and will cover materials from the first part of the quarter.

Reading Reflections 35%

You will need to turn in four 1-2 page (12 point font, Times New Roman, double spaced) reflection papers throughout the session. I will post specific questions one week prior to the deadline on the e-commons site. Your reflections must directly respond to the question posed, and they must demonstrate that you have read, thought about, and thoroughly engaged with the readings to which the questions pertain.

Group Presentation 25%

Each student will be responsible for participating in one group presentation. This presentation will require outside research, and will ask you to bring in materials (either current events or other topical materials) pertaining to the readings we are discussing that day. You will then write your own, individual short paper based on this material.

A separate handout that will be distributed on Weds., July 27th, will give you further details on this assignment. Prior to this, be sure to glance at the syllabus to identify 2-3 readings/topics that you would be interested in researching further.

Course Policies

All cellphones must be put away during class – no texting. Remember to always be respectful of others, to arrive on time, and to not talk during class-time.

Note you must have all of the readings assigned for a particular day with you in class, and be ready for discussion.

Assignment Deadlines: unless you have a valid excuse verified by appropriate official documentation, a drop in one letter grade will penalize late assignments each day that the assignment is past due. If there is an unannounced quiz, it cannot be rescheduled. You cannot make up missed in-class assignments. I will not accept electronic submissions. Make sure to save your work frequently and in multiple formats to ensure that you do not lose your work.

Email: Feel free to email me if you wish to schedule an appointment or to ask brief questions. Please allow at least 24hrs for me to respond to your message. In order to discuss lengthier questions about quizzes, midterms, as well as your ideas for the response papers, please stop by my office hours or arrange an appointment with me. *I will not read drafts of written work or discuss grades by email.*

Problems/Concerns: I encourage you to inform me about any special circumstances that will affect your participation in the course. I am committed to helping you benefit from the lectures and assignments in any way that I can. In addition to speaking with me, if you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Resource Center, 146 Hahn Student Services, (831) 459-2089, drc@ucsc.edu. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. For procedures and information go to the following web site:

http://www2.ucsc.edu/drc/current_students/

Plagiarism: The University does not tolerate plagiarism or any form of cheating during in-class exams (see <http://nettrail.ucsc.edu/> - Section XI, Info Ethics). Be aware that plagiarism is academic theft. Never use an author's words/ideas without giving the author proper credit through citation. You must cite your sources not only for direct quotations, but also for paraphrasing and summarizing another work in your own words, as well as for information or knowledge that is not considered to be common knowledge. Please refer to the University policy on academic honesty for more information.

*Style guides such as the MLA guide for proper citation methods are available through the UCSC Library's Citation Style Guides:

<http://library.ucsc.edu/science/instruction/CitingSources.pdf>

<http://library.ucsc.edu/science/sciref.html>

http://library.ucsc.edu/ref/howto/mla_citations.html

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: Opening Concepts

- M Introduction to the Course
Read and discuss in class:
Audre Lorde, “Age, Race, Sex, Class”
Keywords: Jodi Melamed, “Diversity”
- W Read: Omi and Winant, “Racial Formations”
Maile Arvin, Eve Tuck, Angie Morrill, “Decolonizing Feminism”
Lisa Marie Cacho, “Racialized Hauntings and the Devalued Dead”
Presentation Handout and Presentation Groups Assigned

Week 2: Race, Labor, Property

- M Read: Angela Davis “Reflection on the Black Woman’s Role in the Community of Slaves”
Octavia Butler, *Kindred* (through pg. 189)
DUE: Reading Reflection #1
- W Read: Octavia Butler, *Kindred* (189-end)
Cheryl Harris, “Whiteness as Property”
George Lipsitz, “Possessive Investment in Whiteness”
PRESENTATION:

Week 3: Reproduction, Globalization, Outsourcing

- M Read: France Winddance Twine, *Outsourcing the Womb*
PRESENTATION:
DUE: Reading Reflection #2
- W MIDTERM – Due in your “dropbox” on e-commons no later than 12:30 pm

Week 4: Race and Science

- M Read: Dorothy Roberts, “Race and the New Biocitizen”
Reardon and Tallbear “Your DNA is our History”
Maile Arvin, “The Polynesian Problem and Its Genomic Solutions”
PRESENTATION:
DUE: Reading Reflection #3
- W Read: Aimee Bahng “Specters of the Pacific”
Neel Ahuja “Staging Smallpox”
PRESENTATION:

Week 5: Abolition Democracy

M Read: Angela Davis, *Abolition Democracy*

PRESENTATION:

DUE: Reading Reflection #4

W Conclusions