

## Gender Studies, Race, and the Intersection of Difference

Instructor: Julie Hua  
Time: TTh 9:30-10:50  
Location: Peterson 102  
Office Hours: TTh 11-12 and by appt.  
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### Course Description

This course takes as our point of departure, the idea that categories of difference like gender, race, and class, are intersecting and co-constitutive. We will examine what it means to have “intersecting axes of difference,” and to what end? Our course will begin and end with Rachel Lee’s intriguing proposition that women of color are the “final frontier” of women’s studies and ethnic studies.

The first portion of the course will examine how the framework of multiple and intersecting categories of difference was formulated. Then, we will deconstruct the effects of such a formulation in the subjection of those (non-white, female) bodies occupying the intersection of difference.

I hope that this course will not only introduce the idea that categories of difference cannot be taken as separate and monolithic, but will also critically engage the idea of intersecting differences.

### Required Texts

Kum-Kum Bhavani, *Feminism and “Race”* (available at Groundwork Books)  
Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye* (available at Groundwork Books)  
ETHN 183 Reader (available through Copy Plus 858-794-7836) – will be sold first wk of class

### Course Requirements

- Active participation/learning: This course will be run on a lecture-discussion basis. The success of the course depends on your active participation and attendance.  
NOTE: You are required to submit a one-page self-evaluation of your participation and attendance in class.
- Critical Essay on *The Bluest Eye* (6-8 pages)
- Midterm exam – 2 short essay (take home)
- Final exam (in class)

### Grading

To **MINIMALLY** pass the course and receive a grade, you must have handed in all completed work by the specified due date and time. *I will not accept any late work.* As there are very few assignments, any one missing assignment will result in a course failure. *You must turn in all assignments to pass the course.* If you are taking the course P/NP, you must turn in all assignments and receive at least 70% on each. Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Participation/attendance: 10%  
Critical essay: 30%  
Midterm: 30%  
Final: 30%

**Participation means critically engaging with your classmates on a regular basis.** *It is not calculated by the number of times you talk in class.* I am interested in *QUALITY* of discussion, not *QUANTITY*. Participation also means being engaged and respectful of your colleagues. Because our course materials deal with sensitive materials, we must engage with each other's work in a respectful manner. If I feel that you are being hostile or in any other way impeding a respectful, productive classroom atmosphere, I will ask you to leave. If I feel you are continually causing disruptions, I may request that you drop the course. Missing more than 3 class periods will result in a request to drop the course.

### **Policies:**

- \**Always* bring text(s) with which we are currently working.
- \*Assigned readings are to be completed *before* class. Please come prepared and ready to discuss the assigned materials.
- \*All written work must be typed in 12pt., Times New Roman font with regular (1-inch) margins. For proper paper format and citation guidelines, please refer to an MLA stylebook. Paginate all work and *staple all work in the upper left-hand corner.*
- \*All written work you turn in should be grammar and spell checked as well as proofread before I see it.
- \*The only acceptable way of turning in an assignment to me is in person. If you try to leave your paper for me in any other way without consulting me first, and your paper gets lost, you are held responsible and your paper will be counted as late.
- \*Turn off all phones and beepers during class.
- \*Please take advantage of my office hours! Also, I check my email at least once a day (usually at night) so please don't hesitate to email me.

### **Course Schedule**

This is a tentative schedule for your benefit, it is subject to change

#### Week 0

Thursday, Sept. 23 Introduction

#### Week 1

Tuesday, Sept.28 Our Framework  
Rachel Lee, "Notes From a (non)Field" (Reader p.1-13)  
Hazel Carby, "The Souls of Black Men" (Reader p.14-31)

Thursday, Sept.30 Gender, Race, and Class as Analytics  
David Roediger, "Introduction" (Reader p.39-46)  
Joan Scott, "Gender and the Politics of History (Reader p.32-38)

#### Week 2

Tuesday, Oct.5 Race and Gender as Intersecting: Foundational Texts  
Kimberle Crenshaw, "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex" (Reader p.47-59)  
Elizabeth Spelman, "Gender and Race" (Bhavani p.74)  
Gloria Anzaldua, "*La Conciencia de la Mestiza*" (Bhavani p.93)

Thursday, Oct.7 Patricia Hill Collins, "The Social Construction of Black Feminist Thought" (Bhavani p.184)  
bell hooks, "Black Women: Shaping Feminist Theory" (Bhavani p.33)

Week 3

Tuesday, Oct.12

Special Issue: Rereading Sexuality

Mary Frances Berry, "The Protection of Home and Hearth" (Reader p.60-75)

Evelynn Hammonds, "Toward a Genealogy of Black Female Sexuality" (Reader p.76-83)

Angela Davis, "Rape, Racism, and the Myth of the Black Racist" (Bhavani p.50)

Thursday, Oct.14

Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*

**Essay Prompt**

Week 4

Tuesday, Oct.19

Novel, con't

Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*

"Many Surprises" (Reader p.84)

Thursday, Oct.21

Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*

Week 5

Tuesday, Oct.26

Colonialism and Transnationalism: Other Differences

**Essay Due**

Midterm Prompt

Thursday, Oct.28

Jacqui Alexander & Chandra Mohanty, "Genealogies, Legacies, Movements" (Bhavani p.492)

Ruth Frankenberg & Lata Mani, "Crosscurrents, Crosstalk" (Bhavani p.479)

Avtar Brah, "Difference, Diversity, Differentiation" (Bhavani p.456)

Week 6

Tuesday, Nov.2

Special Issue: Islam and Feminism

Minoo Moallem, "Transnationalism, Feminism, and Fundamentalism" (Reader p.95-109)

Haleh Afshar, "Women and the Politics of Fundamentalism" (Bhavani p.348)

Thursday, Nov.4

Problems Facing Multiple Differences and Identity Politics

Inderpal Grewal & Caren Kaplan, (Reader p.123-137)

Film (in class): *Warrior Marks*

Week 7

Tuesday, Nov.9

**Midterm exam due**

Thursday, Nov. 11 No Class – Veterans’ Day

Week 8  
Tuesday, Nov.16 Critical Understandings of Intersectionality: Revisiting Rachel Lee  
Rachel Lee, “Notes From the (non)Field” (Reader p.110-122)  
Chela Sandoval, “U.S. Third World Feminism” (Bhavani p.261)

Thursday, Nov.18 Jane Flax, “The End of Innocence” (Reader p.138-147)

Week 9  
Tuesday, Nov. 23 Conflating Bodies with Bodies of Knowledge  
Joan Scott, “The Evidence of Experience” (Reader p.148-160)  
Jane Parpart & Marianne Marchand, “Exploding the Canon”  
(Bhavani p.516)

Thursday, Nov.25 No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 10  
Tuesday, Nov.30 Over-view of course and review for final  
**Due: Participation Self-Evaluation**

Thursday, Dec.2 Study day – no class