

TuTh 12:30-1:50pm
Solis 110

ETHN 189: Ethnic Images on TV

PROFESSOR: Curtis Marez
OFFICE: Department of Ethnic Studies, SSB 225
OFFICE HOURS: TU/TH 2-3pm

In this course we will develop an Ethnic Studies approach to differences of race, gender, class, and sexuality in contemporary US Television. That approach will combine concepts from TV studies (ideology, audience response, production) and Ethnic Studies (racial capitalism, interesectionality, settler colonialism, police power).

REQUIRED READINGS:

Jonathan Gray and Amanda D. Lotz, *Television Studies*. This book is available in the UCSD bookstore.

All other course readings and articles will be available in a Dropbox folder that can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/q0kjin6d2z9p8p/AAC0uobM3ybsNyh86d34-7tea?dl=0>

DISCUSSION ETHICS: This class provides students with the tools to think differently about commonly held understandings of cultural production and difference. This can be a challenging and unfamiliar, but quite rewarding and fun, process. Given this, class preparedness and punctual attendance are crucial. All students must attend lectures and discussion sections, and are responsible for completing all assigned readings *prior* to class. Course readings, lectures and discussion sections are designed to prompt you to think critically, to raise questions about conventional views and received wisdom, and to engage in vibrant conversations with your fellow scholars. In such discussions, there will likely be a wide range of opinions. Respectful in-person and online etiquette are expected at all times. These norms are reflected in the UCSD Principles of Community that we are all expected to follow:

<http://www.vcb.ucsd.edu/principles.htm>.

We will start and end on time and I expect you to remain for the entire period. Do not begin to pack up your things 5 minutes before the class is over. Any kind of rustling can be very disturbing.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES and LAPTOPS: Using your phone and other electronic devices will distract other students. All phones and electronic devices other than laptops must be turned off or set to vibrate during class. Electronic devices must be stowed away in bags or pockets. Laptops may only be used to take notes and to search the internet during class when directed by the instructor.

ACCOMMODATIONS: I want to make this course as accessible as possible to students with disabilities or medical conditions that may affect any aspect of course assignments or participation. If you require any specific accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible. Students with disabilities should be sure to register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu/about/index.html>. Also, if you prefer to be called by a different name or to be referred to by a different gender than what appears on your enrollment record, please feel free to notify me.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

--Regular attendance. Students should come to class prepared to discuss assigned readings and screenings. More than 2 unexcused absences may affect your grade.

--A 10-15 minute Group presentations. Drawing on course readings and discussions concept from class, groups of 2-3 students will make a presentation on a particular TV show chosen from the course list. If a show you are interested in is not on the list, ask Dr. Marez. Presentations should provide details of the show in terms of who, when, where, what (who made it and stars in it; when it was made; where it is set and filmed; what it is about). In addition, you need to make an argument about how the show can be viewed through an Ethnic Studies lens. Ultimately, your aim is to convince the class that your show should be viewed and discussed in an Ethnic Studies class. When the presentations are over the class will vote on 2-3 shows for us to view and discuss in the final weeks of the class.

- One 5-7page papers, due at the start of class on November 3, in response to prompts circulated in class. The essays should construct an argument about a particular TV program and draw on at least two secondary sources.

--A take home final exam that combines short ids and an essay (you will be given a choice of topics). The final exam is due by 5pm on Friday, December 11. Please email your papers to me as attachments.

--Pinterest posts. Every Thursday each member of the class will pin something to the Pinterest board I've established for the class—"Ethnic Studies 189: Ethnic Images on TV." For every item you pin to the board you need to add a comment explaining how the item relates to course reading and discussion. In addition, every student is required to leave 5 comments on items pinned by other people. If you don't already have one, you will need to set up a Pinterest account and then email me your user name and the email address you will use to me at cmarez@ucsd.edu so that I can invite you to the board Please be sure to put "Pinterest" in the subject line of your email. Here is a video tutorial for Pinterest: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zth8Z5ZMUew>

Majoring or Minor in Ethnic Studies

Many students take an Ethnic Studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a college general education requirement. Often students have taken many ETHN courses out of interest, yet do not realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An Ethnic Studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, education, medicine, public health, social work, counseling, public policy, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor, please contact:

Daisy Rodríguez, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor
858-534-3277 or d1rodriguez@ucsd.edu or visit www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

SEPTEMBER

Th 24 **Welcome to a New Season: UCSD on TV**

Tu 29 **TV Studies Meets Ethnic Studies**

Gray and Lotz, “Introduction: Why Television Studies?, Why Now?”

In-class viewing: *Color Adjustment* (Marlon Riggs, 1991)

OCTOBER

Th 1 **TV Studies Concepts**

Gray and Lotz, “Programs,” “Audiences,” “Institutions,” “Contexts”

Racial Capitalism and Migrant Labor

Tu 6 Marez, “From Mr. Chips to Scarface, or Racial Capitalism in *Breaking Bad*,”
<https://critinq.wordpress.com/2013/09/25/breaking-bad/>

Out of class viewing: *Breaking Bad* Season 1, Episode 6: “Crazy Handful of Nuthin” (on reserve in the Library)

Th 8 No Class; start reading Tahmahkera

Settler TV/Indigenous TV

Tu 13 Tahmahkera, “Introduction: Decolonizing Viewing, Decolonizing Views,” *Tribal Television: Viewing Native People in Sitcoms* (Dropbox)

Out-side class viewing: “Soap Opera,” Moose TV, Season 1, Episode 7, parts 1-4.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLQs1q_J7oE

Th 15 Tahmahkera, “Sitcom Sovereignty in Mixed Blessings,” *Tribal Television* (Dropbox).

Intersectionality

Tu 20 Evelyn Alsultany, “Evoking Sympathy for the Muslim Woman,” Arabs and Muslims in the Media (Dropbox).

Th 22 Rebecca Wanzo, “Can the Black Woman Shout? A Meditation on ‘Real’ and Utopian Depictions of African American Women on Scripted Television,” *African Americans on Television* (Dropbox)

Race/Post Race and Families of Color

Tu 27 Jared Sexton, “More Serious than Money: On Our Gang, Diff’rent Strokes, and Webster,” *African Americans on Television* (Dropbox)

Th 29 Leilani Nishime, “Aliens: The Interracial Family in Battle Star Galactica,” Undercover Asian: Multiracial Asian Americans in Visual Culture” (Dropbox).

NOVEMBER

Police Power

Tu 3 Judith Butler, “Endangered/Endangering: Schematic Racism and White Paranoia,” *Reading Rodney King, Reading Urban Uprising*,
http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic543054.files/butler_endangered-endangering-schematic-racism_1993.pdf

Out of class viewing:

<http://www.latimes.com/la-rodney-king-beating-video-20120426-premiumvideo.html>

<http://abcnews.go.com/Archives/video/march-1991-rodney-king-videotape-9758031>

5-7 PAGE PAPER DUE AT START OF CLASS

Th 5 Out of class viewing: *The Bridge* 1.1 (On reserve in the library).

Margy Rochlin “Border Mystery, Moved to a New Border,” New York Times July 5, 2013, http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/07/arts/television/the-bridge-fx-series-is-set-on-us-mexico-border.html?_r=0

Our remaining discussions will focus on 3 particular TV shows selected by the class.

Tu 10

Th 12

Tu 17

Th 19

Tu 24

Th 26 Thanksgiving Holliday

December

Tu 1

Th 3 Review

Your take-home final exam is due by 5pm on Friday, December 11