

**Ethnic Politics in America**  
**Ethnic Studies 151**  
**Summer Session II 2009**

**Instructor:** Long T. Bui

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**Office Hours:** Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12-1 pm (one hour after every class) or by appointment

**Class Meets:** M-W-F, 10:00am-11:50am, Social Science Building 103

**\*\*\*COURSE DESCRIPTION\*\*\***

Guided by the message of hope and the unfinished struggle for social justice evoked by the recent election of Barack Obama, this course takes this rare opportunity to consider the changing contours of contemporary ethnic politics through public work and life of the first African American U.S. president. Ethnic politics in the current period has entered a new phase of development insofar as the most powerful man upon the global stage has become a celebrated figure of multicultural acceptance and “post-raciality” at a time when social conflicts of a racialized nature are taking on a heightened character. Here, we must ask what are the specific conditions, contexts and trajectories through which such conflicts manifest and how are they related to issues of globalization, modernity, colonization, slavery, immigration and empire? This course examines how political discourses and representations are built around certain constructions of marginalized communities and peoples. Students will be expected to learn how to apply a critical analysis to contemporary political issues.

**\*\*\*REQUIRED TEXTS\*\*\***

*Books available at Groundwork Bookstore (452-9625)*

Obama, Barack. *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance* (New York: Times Books, 1995).

Article readings on e-reserves\* and Assignments posted [webct.ucsd.edu](http://webct.ucsd.edu)

**\*\*\*GRADING\*\*\***

Attendance 10 %

Participation 20 (includes class presentation)

Speech and Speech Presentation 15%

Speech Analysis 15%

Final 30%

Attendance/Participation: Required. Full credit requires no more than 2 excused or unexcused absences as well as attentive participation in all in class discussion and exercises. Attentive participation requires ACTIVE LISTENING to anyone speaking, ACTIVE SPEAKING during each class discussion.

Absences must be excused through notification. **A 1 page single space analysis/critique of the texts on the day of the absence must be submitted as a makeup assignment.**

Final Examinations: The final will be cumulative take-home essay

Late or Make-up Assignments and Exams: Late assignments will not be accepted and there will be no make up exams except, perhaps, in extreme circumstances with appropriate documentation.

### **WEEK ONE: The Politics of Knowledge**

(Monday, August 3): The Politics of Meaning and Status

\*Amok, Emil. "Barack Obama's 'Model Minority' Problem," *Asianweek*, March 30, 2008. <http://www.asianweek.com/2008/03/30/barack-obama%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%98model-minority%E2%80%99-problem/>

(Wednesday, August 5): Politics of Identity and Ethnicity

\*Stuart Hall. "New Ethnicities." *Critical Dialogues in Cultural Studies*. Ed. David Morley and Kuan-Hsing Chen. London: Routledge (1996): 441-449.

(Friday, August 7): The Politics of History and Historiography

\*Peller, Gary. "Race-Consciousness." *Critical Race Theory: The Key Writings that Formed the Movement*. Edited by Kimberlé Crenshaw et al (New York: New Press : Distributed by W.W. Norton & Co., 1995), 127-158.

Book Club: Read Preface, Chapters 1 and 2 in *Dreams from My Father*

### **WEEK TWO: The Politics of Representation**

(Monday, August 10): The Politics of Authority and Positionality

\*Collins, Patricia Hill. "Black Feminist Thought in the Matrix of Domination." *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment* (Boston: Unwin Hyman, 1990), 221-238.

(Wednesday, August 12): The Politics of Memory and Art

\*Nguyen, Viet T. (2006). Speak of the Dead, Speak of Viet Nam: The Ethics and Aesthetics of Minority Discourse. *The New Centennial Review/Michigan State Univ. Press*. Vol. volume 6: 7-37.

(Friday, August 14): The Politics of Remembrance and Reparation

\*Walters, Ronald W. "Barriers to Truth and Reconciliation in America," *The Price of Racial Reconciliation*. (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2008), 131-161.

Book Club: Read Chapters 4-6 in *Dreams from My Father*

### **WEEK THREE: The Politics of Conflict and Reconciliation**

(Monday, August 17): The (Geo)Politics of Culture and Place

\*Huntington, Samuel P. "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* Vol. 72, no. 3, Summer 1993: 22-49.

(Wednesday, August 19): The Politics of Home, Indigeneity and Sovereignty

\*Hall, Lisa Kahaleole. "Strategies of Erasure: U.S. Colonialism and Native Hawaiian Feminism." *American Quarterly*, Volume 60, Number 2 (June 2008): 273-280.

Book Club: Read Chapters 3 and 4 in *Dreams from My Father*  
Guest Speaker: Maile Arvin and Angela Morrill

(Friday, August 21): The Politics of Hybridity and Diversity

\*Lugo-Lugo, Carmen and Mary K. Bloodsworth-Lugo. "Black as Brown: The 2008 Obama Primary Campaign and the U.S. Browning of Terror," *Journal of African American Studies*, Vol 13, no. 2: 110-120.

Book Club: *Dreams* Chapters 7-10

#### **WEEK FOUR: The Politics of Struggle**

(Monday, August 24): The Politics of Coalition-Building

\*Pulido, Laura. "Serving the People and Vanguard Politics: The Formation of the Third World Left in Los Angeles," *Black, Brown, Yellow, and Left: Radical Activism in Los Angeles* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006), 89-122.

#### **Papers Due in Class**

(Wednesday, August 26): The Politics of Sexuality and Desire

\*Cohen, Cathy J. "Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens: The Radical Potential of Queer Politics?" *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* Vol. 3, no. 4 (1997):437-465.

#### **Speeches (10 min. max per presentation)**

(Friday, August 28): Speeches Continued...

\*Hsu, Hua. "The End of White America?" *The Atlantic* (Jan/Feb. 2009)  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200901/end-of-whiteness>

Book Club: Read *Dreams* Chapter 11-14)

#### **WEEK FIVE: The Politics of Change**

(Monday, August 31): The Politics of Reform and Resistance

Choose one essay to read:

\*Jill Quagdan. 1994. "The Politics of Welfare Reform," In *The Color of Welfare: How Racism Undermined the War on Poverty*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press. 117-134.

\*Park, Lisa and David Pellow. "Racial Formation, Environmental Racism, and the Emergence of Silicon Valley." *Ethnicities*, Vol. 4, No. 3, (2004): 403-424.

(Wednesday, September 1): The Politics of Sight and Vision

\*Senaha, Eijun. "Barack Obama and His-Story: Paradox of Hybridity and Masculinity in His Autoandrography" *Nanzan Review of American Studies* Volume 30 (2008): 211-221.

Film: *Senator Obama goes to Africa* followed by discussion

(Friday, September 4): The Politics of Hope

\*Bell, Derrick Jr. "Racial Realism." *Critical Race theory: The key writings that formed the movement*. Edited by Kimberlé Crenshaw. New York: New Press: Distributed by W.W. Norton & Co., c1995, pp. 302-314.

Book Club: Read *Dreams* Epilogue and the Audacity of Hope End

ADA Statement: Any student with a disability or condition that compromises her ability to complete course requirements should notify the professor as soon as possible. The professor will take all reasonable efforts to accommodate those needs. If, as a result of a disability, you cannot accept the content or terms of this syllabus, notify the professor within one week of receiving syllabus. If you wish to be called a different name or gender pronoun please tell me.

Majoring or Minorin in Ethnic Studies at UCSD

Many students take an Ethnic Studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of "interest" yet have no information about the major or minor and don't 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, public policy, government and politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Yolanda Escamilla, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, at 858-534-3277 or [yescamilla@ucsd.edu](mailto:yescamilla@ucsd.edu).