

Ethnic Studies 289: Comparative Immigrations

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Office hours: Monday 2:30-4:30 & Wednesday 2-3

Course description:

This class will focus on immigration to the United States. It will examine immigration as a site of racialization and as such will examine different immigrant groups, such as Mexicans, Chinese, Japanese, and Europeans, to see how they became thought of as racialized groups within a US racial paradigm. The class will examine various institutions such as the law, health, and the academy, to see how they helped construct the contours of how we think about immigration. We will use readings from across the disciplines to see what different methodologies can offer.

Books to purchase:

These books can be purchased at Groundworks (858.452.9625) and are on reserve at Geisel library.

Ngai, Mae M. 2004. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America, Politics and Society in Twentieth-Century America*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.

Lee, Erika. 2003. *At America's Gates Chinese Immigration During the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

Yu, Henry. 2001. *Thinking Orientals: Migration, Contact, and Exoticism in Modern America*. Oxford: New York: Oxford University Press.

Espiritu, Yen Le. 2003. *Home Bound: Filipino American Lives Across Cultures, Communities, and Countries*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Grading:

Leading class discussion: 20 %

Participation: 40 %

Final Paper draft, due week 8: 20 %

Final Paper: 20 %

Leading class discussions- Students will take turns leading class discussion. The goal is to identify the most important concepts in the readings and create a discussion around them. You are also encouraged to bring in outside materials to illustrate the points/concepts we are discussing. I will give you a written evaluation.

Participation: You should come prepared to participate in every class discussion. I will call on people. E-mail responses are also a way to see how you are engaging the texts before class. These should not be summaries of the text. Instead, identify the main arguments of the text,

think about how this fits into the goals of the course, and pose some questions. Make sure you cite the author if you quote or paraphrase him/her.

Final paper: Pick one of the main themes we have discussed in class and write a 10-12 page paper. It is fine if the paper is part of our masters or dissertation project. The paper, however, should heavily engage the texts used in the course. Please turn in a draft during week 8. The paper is due Tuesday of finals week.

Week 1: Immigration and its fields:

* The articles can be found on e-reserve.

Yu, Henry. "Los Angeles and American Studies in a Pacific World of Migrations," *American Quarterly*, Vol. 56, No. 3, (Sep., 2004), pp. 531-543.

Sánchez, George. 1999. Race, Nation, and Culture in Recent Immigration Studies. *Journal of American Ethnic History*: Summer 1999, 66-84.

Week 2:

Amy Kaplan, "Violent Belongings and the Question of Empire Today" *American Quarterly*, 56.4 (March 2004).

Andrew Hebard, "Romantic Sovereignty: Popular Romances and the American Imperial State in the Philippines," *American Quarterly*, September 2005, Volume 57, Number 3, 805-830.

Anne McClintock, Chapter One, "The Lay of the Land," in *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Context* (Routledge: New York, 1995), 21-74 (and notes, 399-404).

Amy Kaplan, "Left Alone with America: The Absence of Empire in the Study of American Culture," 3-21 (and notes) and Donald Pease, "New Perspective on U. S. Culture and Imperialism" 22-40 (and notes) in Amy Kaplan and Donald Pease, eds., *Cultures of United States Imperialisms* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1993)..

Week 3: What do we mean when we say race is socially constructed? What are the debates around whiteness?

How did the category "white" arise and how has it changed over time? Pay specific attention to the time period 1840-1920. What is the relationship of whiteness to citizenship? How have the law and science shaped categories of whiteness? How is the category "white" established? Which immigrant groups are classified as "white" and which institutions and/or processes determine that?

Readings: Frye Jacobson, "The Fabrication of Race," introduction to *Whiteness of a Different Color* and Frye Jacobson, "'Free White Persons' in the Republic, 1790-1840," "Anglo Saxons and Others, 1840-1924," in Jacobson, Matthew Frye. 1998. *Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race*. Cambridge: Harvard University. (1-90 and footnotes, 283-297).

David J. Hellwig, "Black Leaders and United States Immigration Policy, 1917-1929," *The Journal of Negro History*, Vol. 66, No. 2. (Summer, 1981), pp. 110-127.

Devon W. Carbado, "Racial Naturalization," *American Quarterly*, September 2005, Volume 57, Number 3, 633-658.

Week 4: On Citizenship, Part I:

Why is 1924 such a pivotal moment? How do different groups embark on different paths of racialization after 1924?

Ngai, Mae M. 2004. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America, Politics and Society in Twentieth-Century America*, Introduction, Parts I and II.

Silvia Pedraza-Bailey, "Immigration Research: A Conceptual Map," *Social Science History*, Vol. 14, No. 1. (Spring, 1990), pp. 43-67.

Week 5: Limits of the Melting Pot Theory, Part I

Part I: Lee, Erika. 2003. *At America's Gates Chinese Immigration During the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

Palumbo-Liu, David. 1999. *Asian/American Historical Crossings of a Racial Frontier*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, Introduction, Chapters 1 & 3 (1-42, 81-115, and notes, 419-421 & 424-427)

Week 6: Limits of the Melting Pot Theory, Part II

Yu, Henry. 2001. *Thinking Orientals: Migration, Contact, and Exoticism in Modern America*. Oxford: New York: Oxford University Press.

Lowe, Lisa. 1996. *Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Cultural Politics*. Durham: Duke University Press, Chapter 1 (1-36 and footnotes 177-198).

Tomas Jimenez with Mary C. Waters, "Immigrant Assimilation: Current Trends and Future Directions for Research" in *Annual Review of Sociology*, vol. 31 (2005).

Week 7: On Citizenship, Part II:

Ngai, Mae M. 2004. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America, Politics and Society in Twentieth-Century America*, Parts III and IV.

George M. Fredrickson, "Presidential Address: America's Diversity in Comparative Perspective," *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 85, No. 3. (Dec., 1998), pp. 859-875.

Week 8: Sexual and Racial Borders

Stern, Alexandra. 2005. *Eugenic Nation: Faults and Frontiers of Better Breeding in Modern America*: University of California Press, Introduction, Chapters 1-2 (pages 1-89 and footnotes,

217-242).

Eithne Luibheid. 2002. *Entry Denied: Controlling Sexuality at the Border*: University of Minnesota, Chapters 4 & 5 (pages 77-135, 205-231).

Siobhan B. Somerville, "Notes toward a Queer History of Naturalization," *American Quarterly*, September 2005, Volume 57, Number 3, 659-676.

Nayan Shah, "Between 'Oriental Depravity' and 'Natural Degenerates': Spatial Borderlands and the Making of Ordinary Americans," *American Quarterly*, September 2005, Volume 57, Number 3, 703-726.

Week 9: Transnationalism:

Espiritu, Yen Le. 2003. *Home Bound: Filipino American Lives Across Cultures, Communities, and Countries*. Berkeley: University of California Press, Chapters 1-5 and 9.

Aihwa Ong. 1999. *Flexible Citizenship: The Cultural Logics of Transnationality*. Durham: Duke University Press, Introduction (1-28 and notes, 245-).

Week 10: Suspended in Becoming Mexican-American

David Gutiérrez, "Introduction" in Gutiérrez, David, ed. 2004. *The Columbia History of Latinos in the United States Since 1960*. New York: Columbia University Press. (1-42 and notes).

Kevin Johnson, "The Pressures of Perpetual Promise: Latinos and Politics, 1960-2003" (391-420 and notes) in Gutiérrez, David, ed. 2004. *The Columbia History of Latinos in the United States Since 1960*. New York: Columbia University Press.

David Gutiérrez, "Globalization, Labor migration, and the Demographic Revolution: Ethnic Mexicans in the Late Twentieth Century" (43-86 and notes) in Gutiérrez, David, ed. 2004. *The Columbia History of Latinos in the United States Since 1960*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Tomas Jimenez, "Negotiating Ethnic Boundaries: Multiethnic Mexican Americans and Ethnic Identity in the United States" in *Ethnicities*, 4(1): 75-97 (2004);

Nicholas de Genova and Ana Y. Ramon-Zayas, "Introduction" in *Latino Crossings Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and the Politics of Race and Citizenship* (Routledge: New York, 2003), 1-30 (and notes, 219-222).