

ETHN 200B – FORMULATIONS
Winter 2010

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Office Hours: Wednesdays & Thursdays (1:00p – 2:30p) or by appointment

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THE PROGRAMME

The Department of Ethnic Studies' Vision Statement calls for our engagement in “the fundamental theoretical and political questions regarding the critical conceptualization of social categories, particularly race, indigeneity, culture, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, and nation.” This class focuses on how to rethink these questions in a comparative, relational, and interdisciplinary fashion; an epistemology that concerns itself with disciplinarity, representation, and knowledge production. Moving away from the invisibility-to-visibility model, which structures visibility as the penultimate goal, our task calls attention to the racial subaltern as unstable, unrepresentable, and unbelonging subjects who make transparent and thus destabilize the political/symbolic investments of institutionally sanctioned disciplines. The course uses model studies to explore how comparative and relational problems are posed as research projects, how research questions are constructed, and how they employ theory to frame the project and to establish what is at stake in the research.

Your Task:

Reading Questions:

Weeks 2-6 – When reading the assigned text/s prepare questions that related it/them to issues raised in class and others that may come to you. Also, please bring any questions related to text interpretation/comprehension to class.

Discussion Mediation & Class Presentation Guidelines

Presentations (Weeks 3-6) - Each week two students will be responsible for presenting additional readings identified in the syllabus.

Email Responses & Discussion Mediation (Weeks 7-9) – **Everyone** must produce an email response to the assigned book: it should include (a) identification of main concepts, strategies, and arguments; (b) comments that related those to previous discussions; and (c) questions addressing specific aspects of the text and/or relating it to issues previously emerged in class discussion and/or previous readings. The **mediators** will be responsible for leading the seminar. Drawing from the questions raised in the email responses, they should prepare a guide for class discussion.

Evaluation: 50% (Class Participations) & 50% (Discussion Mediation)

THE ITINERARY

After Difference?

Week 01 – January 6:

Smith's *Native Americans and the Christian Right*

Week 02 – January 13

Puar's *Terrorist Assemblages*

Grounds

Week 03 – January 20

Assigned: Kant's *Prolegomena on Any Future Metaphysics*

Presentation: Freud's *Outline of Psychoanalysis*

Week 04 – January 27

Assigned: Hegel's *Introduction to Lectures on the Philosophy of History*

Presentation: Marx's *Grundrisse* (Introduction) and Commodities

Designs

Week 05 – February 3

Assigned: Althusser & Lacan

Presentation: Gramsci & Fanon

Week 06 – February 10

Assigned: Deleuze & Derrida

Presentation: Foucault & Butler

Tracks

Week 07 – February 17

Spivak's *A Critique of Postcolonial Reason*

Week 08 – February 24:

Rodriguez's *Forced Passages*

Week 09 – March 3

Moten's *In the Break*

Week 10 – March 10: Openings