

Ethnic Studies 150/ Critical Gender Studies 150
Visuality, Sexuality and Race
Winter 2016

Professor: Daphne Taylor-García, dtg@ucsd.edu

Class: T/TH 2:00-3:20pm, Center 218

Office Location: Department of Ethnic Studies, SSB 226

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 6:30pm—7:30pm and by appointment

Course Description:

I'm not given a second chance. I am overdetermined from the outside. I am the slave not to the "idea" others have of me, but to my appearance.

-Frantz Fanon

Visuality is a specific term to refer to the way in which power relations construct our visual field. In other words, how we make sense of what we "see" is mediated by existing power relations. Visuality classifies through the power to name, categorize and define, thus producing what is legible. This system of classification is a means of social organization that began with the casta system and slavery, but is now structural in its reproduction and expansion of colonial effects such as racial and sexual profiling and the coloniality of gender. Visuality also speaks to the *naturalization* of this system of classification that has serious immediate and long-term material consequences: it functions to both renew power relations and preempt colonial subjects from organizing for their collective interests. For this reason presenting a counternarrative to visuality has been central to queer of color critique.

Required Texts:

Books can be purchased at the UCSD Bookstore:

Frantz Fanon. *Black Skin, White Masks*. New York: Grove Press, 2008.

Jacqueline Martinez. *Phenomenology of Chicana Experience and Identity*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2000.

All other course readings can be viewed and downloaded via TED.

-Please bring copies of the readings to class.

-Please note: Readings may be edited or added depending on class discussions.

Accommodations:

I would like to ensure this class is accessible to everyone. Please contact me as soon as possible if you require any specific accommodations for a disability or medical reason.

Course Requirements:

Short Paper: 20%

3-5 pages. Summarize key themes from Alcoff and Ahmed. Conclude with your own reflection on the readings.

Précis (two of them): 20% each = 40%

Please see TED under the “instructions” tab for specific guidelines on how to write a précis.

Participation: 20%

Please see below.

Final Presentation: 10%

Create a 5-minute presentation including media. Feel free to draw from any of your written assignments from the class, or bring in additional visual material.

Final paper: 10%

Write a reflection paper based on the course

Attendance/Participation:

Seminar style classes are discussion based. So while I will lecture to help elucidate, contextualize or elaborate a particular concept, it is also expected that students will come to class ready to engage in a discussion.

Please arrive in class having completed the assigned readings for the day. Informed and engaged discussion is a critical part of the learning process and everyone is expected to contribute.

Please note: this is an upper division course with very dense reading material. I strongly recommend that you have some background in CGS or Ethnic Studies before taking this course.

Grading Policy:

Students must complete all assignments to get a passing grade in the class.

All submitted assignments should be double-spaced in 12pt font Times New Roman or equivalent.

Class Schedule:

January 5
Welcoming and Introductions

UNIT 1
On Visibility

January 7
Linda Martín Alcoff, “Racism and Visible Race.”

January 12
Linda Martín Alcoff. “Phenomenology of Racial Embodiment”

UNIT 2
Orientations

January 14
Sara Ahmed. “Sexual Orientations,” from *Queer Phenomenology*

January 19
Sara Ahmed. “A Phenomenology of Whiteness.”
Short Paper Due

UNIT 3
On Looking

January 21
Jean-Paul Sartre. *Excerpt from Being and Nothingness*

January 26
Frantz Fanon. *Black Skin, White Masks*. Pages xi—44

January 28
Film (stream on Kanopy): Black Skin, White Masks
Fanon cont’d. Pages 45—88

February 2
Fanon cont’d. Pages 89—184

February 4
Fanon cont’d. Pages 185—206
Précis Due

UNIT 4
On Perception

February 9

Film: When Worlds Collide

February 11

Eithne Luibheid. “Looking like a Lesbian: The Organization of Sexual Monitoring at the US/Mexico Border.”

February 16

Maurice Merleau-Ponty. *Excerpt from Phenomenology of Perception*

UNIT 5
On Knowing

February 18

Jacqueline Martinez. *Phenomenology of Chicana Experience and Identity*.

pp 1–31

Keyword: Semiotics

February 23

Martinez cont’d pp 33–80

February 25

Martinez cont’d pp 81–133

Précis Due

Prelude to Presentations

March 1

Film (at library or stream): *Two Spirit* directed by Lydia Nibley *or Fire* directed by Deepa Mehta *or* a film you recommend.

Online discussion: 1 paragraph responding to the film you watched.

UNIT 6
Presentations!

March 3

Presentations

March 8

Presentations

March 10

Presentations

Final Paper Due March 14th, 6pm at SSB 226