

Sample Syllabus

Comparative Studies/Women's Studies 545 Intersections: Approaches to race, gender, class, sexuality

Rationale:

This course is part of a sequence of courses being developed in the area of Comparative Ethnic and American Studies. Both comparative and interdisciplinary, this course is also conceived of as central to many of the intellectual missions of Comparative Studies. Through its focus on intersectionality, this course highlights the interaction of axes of social differentiation. It thereby encourages students to see aspects of race, class, gender, and sexuality not simply as abstract analytical terms or isolated forms of social experience, but instead in conjunction with each other. This course emphasizes a comparative method that brings to the foreground both specific intersections and a more generalized understanding of the social, political and cultural processes that shape lived experiences of difference. As an upper-division class, it will encourage students interested in difference to develop more sophisticated interdisciplinary approaches and more complex models than might be available in introductory level courses. While it will build on students' previous knowledge of communities of difference, this course will help raise students' awareness of and ability to conceptualize difference as a social reality with many different forms and causes.

This course can be taught by any of the new hires in Ethnic Studies—Professor Luz Calvo, Professor Thuy Linh Tu, and Professor Maurice Stevens—or in Women's Studies—Professor Catriona Rueda Esquibel, Professor Ruby Tapia, and Professor Rebecca Wanzo. This course will fulfill a requirement for the Latino/a Studies and Asian American Studies minors.

Course Description:

This course allows students to examine in depth the intersections of race, gender, class and sexuality in various sites within American culture. This syllabus presents a course focused on the intersection of race, gender, sexuality, and class in the legal system, civil rights discourse, and struggles for social justice. In this course, students will read critical race theory in relation to specific issues illustrated by historical events, including issues of state violence, the body, colonization, criminalization and social justice struggles. Students will consider the role of legal processes and institutions in the systematic production of, identification of, and oppression of communities of difference as well as the agentive roles played by those communities in the resistance to that oppression. In every version of the course, students will be taught to recognize the co-constitutive workings of race, class, gender, and sexuality.

Required Texts:

Robert Gooding-Williams. 1993. Ed. *Reading Rodney King, Reading Urban Uprising*. New York: Routledge.

Patricia J. Williams. 1991. *The Alchemy of Race and Rights: Diary of a Law Professor*. Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press.

Jael Silliman and Anannya Bhattacharjee. 2002. *Policing the National Body: Sex, Race and Criminalization*, afterword by Angela Y. Davis. Cambridge, Massachusetts: South End Press.

Rena Fraden. 2001. *Imagining Medea: Rhodessa Jones and Theater for Incarcerated Women*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

Course Packet

Films:

Bread and Roses, Director Ken Loach (2000, 110 min)

La Operación Director Ana Maria Garcia (1982, 39 min)
Sa-I-Gu: From Korean Women's Perspectives, Director Dai Sil Kim-Gibson (1993, 36 min)
San Francisco State: On Strike (1969, 25 min)
Black Nations, Queer Nations? Director Shari Frilot (1995, 59 min)

Course Requirements:

- *Midterm and Final Exam: short answer and essay
- *12-15 page research paper: topic due week 3, bibliography due week 6, 100 word abstract of paper with argument clearly stated due week 7, rough draft due week 8 for peer evaluation, final draft due on last day of class
- *Brief Presentation of Research

Grades:

Participation	10%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	25%
Research paper	40%
Presentation	5%

Students with Disabilities: Students who need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor to arrange an appointment as soon as possible to discuss the course format, to anticipate needs, and to explore potential accommodations. The instructor relies on the Office of Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. Students who have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services (614-292-3307; www.ods.ohio-state.edu), are encouraged to do so.

Weekly Syllabus

Week One

Introduction: Critical Legal Theory

Derrick A. Bell, Jr. "Brown v. Board of Education and the Interest Convergence Dilemma" in *A Reader on Race, Civil Rights, and American Law: A Multiracial Approach*. Edited by Timothy Davis, Kevin R. Johnson, George A. Martínez Durham, N.C.: Carolina Academic Press, 2001, 742-747.

Alan David Freeman, "Legitimizing Racial Discrimination through Antidiscrimination Law: A Critical Review of Supreme Court Doctrine" in *Critical Race Theory : The Key Writings that Formed the Movement* . Edited by Kimberlé Crenshaw [et al.], New York : New Press, 1995. 29-45.

Lani Guinier, "Groups, Representation, and Race-Conscious Districting: A Case of the Emperor's Clothes" in *Critical Race Theory : The Key Writings that Formed the Movement* . Edited by Kimberlé Crenshaw [et al.], New York : New Press, 1995. 205-234.

Brown V Board of Education (available on Lexis-Nexus)

Week Two: Race, Class, Gender
Intersectionality

Kimberlé Crenshaw, "A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Law and Politics" in *The Politics of Law : A Progressive Critique*. Edited by David Kairys, New York : Basic Books, 1998, 356-380.

Kimberlé Crenshaw, "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory, and Antiracist Politics" in *Living with Contradictions : Controversies in Feminist Social Ethics*. Edited by Alison M. Jaggar, Boulder : Westview Press, 1994, 39-61.

Kimberlé Crenshaw, "Intersectionality and Identity Politics: Learning from Violence against Women of Color" in *Reconstructing Political Theory : Feminist Perspectives*. Edited by Mary Lyndon Shanley and Uma Narayan, University Park, PA : Pennsylvania State University Press, 1997, 178-193.

Eileen Boris, "Dialogue: Gender, Race, and Rights: Listening to Critical Race Theory" in *Journal of Women's History*, Summer94, Vol. 6 Issue 2, 111-124.
Melinda Chateaufort, "A Response to 'Gender, Race, and Rights'" in *Journal of Women's History*, Summer94, Vol. 6 Issue 2, 125-132.

Week Three: Race/Race

State Violence: Rodney King, the Beating and its Aftermath

Robert Gooding-Williams, ED. *Reading Rodney King, Reading Urban Uprising*. New York : Routledge, 1993.

Film: *Sa-I-Gu: From Korean Women's Perspective*

Week Four: Race and Gender

The Body I: Women of Color Reproductive Rights

Angela Y. Davis, "Outcast Mothers and Surrogates: Racism and Reproductive Politics in the Nineties" in *American Feminist Thought at Century's End: A Reader*. Edited by Linda S. Kauffman, Cambridge, MA : Blackwell, 1993, 355-366.

Angela Y Davis, "Racism, Birth Control, and Reproductive Rights" in *Moral Controversies: Race, Class, and Gender in Applied Ethics*. Edited by Steven Jay Gold, Belmont, Calif.: Wadsworth Pub. Co., 1993, 33-40.

Dorothy E. Roberts, "Punishing Drug Addicts Who Have Babies: Women of Color, Equality, and the Right of Privacy" in *Critical Race Theory : The Key Writings that Formed the Movement* . Edited by Kimberlé Crenshaw [et al.], New York : New Press, 1995. 384-425.

Iris Lopez, "Agency and Constraint: Sterilization and Reproductive Freedom Among Puerto Rican Women in New York City" in *Situated Lives : Gender and Culture in Everyday Life*. Edited by Louise Lamphere, Helena Ragone and Patricia Zavella, New York : Routledge, 1997, 157-174.

Cherrie Moraga, "Waiting in the Wings: Reflections on a Radical Motherhood" in *The Politics of Motherhood : Activist Voices from Left to Right*. Edited by Alexis Jetter, Annelise Orleck, and

Diana Taylor Hanover : University Press of New England [for] Dartmouth College, 1997, 288-310.

Week Five: Race and Sexuality
The Body II: Queer-of-Color

Elvia R. Arriola, "Gendered Inequality" in *Critical Race Theory : The Cutting Edge*. Edited by Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic, Philadelphia : Temple University Press, 2000, 322-324.

Darren Lenard Hutchinson, "Out Yet Unseen: A Racial Critique of Gay and Lesbian Legal Theory and Political Discourse" in *Critical Race Theory : The Cutting Edge*. Edited by Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic, Philadelphia : Temple University Press, 2000, 325-333.

Francisco Valdes, "Sex and Race in Queer Legal Culture: Ruminations on Identities and Interconnectivities" in *Critical Race Theory : The Cutting Edge*. Edited by Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic, Philadelphia : Temple University Press, 2000, 334-342.

Andrew Koppelman, "The Miscegenation Analogy: Sodomy Law as Sex Discrimination" 98 *Yale Law Journal* 145 (1988).

Film: *Black Nations, Queer Nations?*

Midterm Examination

Week Six: Gender and Nation
Gendered Sovereignty

Rayna Green, "Native American Women" in *Readings In American Indian Law : Recalling the Rhythm of Survival*. Edited by Jo Carrillo, Philadelphia : Temple University Press, 1998, 215-225.

Wilma Mankiller, "Mankiller: A Chief and Her People" in *Readings In American Indian Law : Recalling the Rhythm of Survival*. Edited by Jo Carrillo, Philadelphia : Temple University Press, 1998, 242-251.

Genevieve Chato and Christine Conte, "The Legal Rights of American Indian Women" in *Readings In American Indian Law : Recalling the Rhythm of Survival*. Edited by Jo Carrillo, Philadelphia : Temple University Press, 1998, 252-263.

Gloria Valencia-Weber and Christine P, "Zuni Domestic Violence and Tribal Protection of Indigenous Women in the United States" " in *Readings In American Indian Law : Recalling the Rhythm of Survival*. Edited by Jo Carrillo, Philadelphia : Temple University Press, 1998, 264-276.

Haunani-Kay Trask, "Kupa'a 'Aina: Native Hawaiian Nationalism in Hawaii," in *From a Native Daughter : Colonialism and Sovereignty in Hawaii*. Honolulu : University of Hawaii Press, 1999, 65-86.

Lilikala Kame'eleihiwa, "Na 'Wa' Hine Kapu: Divine Hawaiian Women" in *Women's Rights and Human Rights : International Historical Perspectives*. Edited by Patricia Grimshaw, Katie Holmes, and Marilyn Lake, Hampshire, [England] ; New York : Palgrave, 2001, 71-87.

Jeff Stewart, "The Wedding Luau-Who Is Invited?: Hawaii, Same-Sex Marriage, and Emerging Realities"

Week Seven: Race and Gender
The Prison Industrial Complex

Jael Silliman and Anannya Bhattacharjee, 2002. *Policing the National Body : Sex, Race and Criminalization ; A Project of the Committee on Women, Population, and the Environment.* afterword by Angela Y. Davis. Cambridge, Massachusetts : South End Press.

Angela Y. Davis, "Prison Abolition" in *Black Genius : African American Solutions to African American Problems.* Edited by Walter Mosley.[et al.] ; and with an introduction by Walter Mosley, New York : W.W. Norton, 1999, 193-214.

Recommended: Rena Fraden, 2001. *Imagining Medea: Rhodessa Jones and Theater for Incarcerated Women.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

Week Eight: Race/Class/Gender

Justice Movements I: The Mothers of East LA and Justice for Janitors

Mary Pardo, "Gendered Citizenship: Mexican American Women and Grassroots Activism in East Los Angeles, 1986-1992" in *Chicano Politics and Society in the Late Twentieth Century.* Edited by David Montejano, Austin : University of Texas Press, 1999, 58-82.

Jane Williams, "Restructuring Labor's Identity: The Justice for Janitors Campaign in Washington, D.C." in *The Transformation of U.S. Unions : Voices, Visions, and Strategies from the Grassroots.* Edited by Ray M. Tillman and Michael S. Cummings, Boulder, Colo. : Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1999, 203-218.

Film: *Bread and Roses*

Week Nine: Race, Gender, Sexuality

Justice Movements II: Ethnic Studies, Women's Studies, GLBT Studies

Karen Umemoto, "On Strike! San Francisco State College Strike, 1968-69: The Role of Asian American Students" in *Contemporary Asian America : A Multidisciplinary Reader.* Edited by Min Zhou and James V. Gatewood, New York : New York University Press, 2000, 49-79.

M. Annette Jaimes Guerrero, "Academic Apartheid: American Indian Studies and "Multiculturalism" in *Mapping Multiculturalism.* Edited by Avery F. Gordon and Christopher Newfield, Minneapolis : University of Minnesota Press, 1996, 49-63.

El Plan de Santa Barbara. Available online.

Orozco, Cynthia, "Sexism in Chicano Studies" in *Chicana Feminist Thought : The Basic Historical Writings.* Edited by Alma M. Garcia, New York : Routledge, 1997, 265-269.

Film: *San Francisco State: On Strike*

Week Ten

Conclusion and Research Presentations

Patricia Williams, 1991. *The Alchemy of Race and Rights.* Cambridge, Mass. : Harvard University Press.