

Sociology 304
Race, Ethnicity, and Popular Culture
Spring 2007
Carney 007
Tues: 4:30-6:30

Prof. Zine Magubane
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Office Hours: Tues. 1-3pm and by appointment

In this course we will examine the ways in which race and ethnicity are represented, transformed, and debated in popular culture.

Required Texts:

- Patricia Hill-Collins. *Black Sexual Politics*.
- Naomi Klein. *No Logo*.
- Ariel Levy. *Female Chauvinist Pigs*.
- Leon Wynter. *American Skin*.

Grading:

Attendance and participation: 20%
Paper 1 (15-20 pp): 40%
Paper 2 (15-20pp): 40%

Due Dates

Paper One: March 20
Paper Two: May 2

Jan 16th: **Introduction**

Jan 23rd : **Consumption, Race, and Youth Culture**

- Film: **No Logo**
- *No Logo* Chap. 1, 2, 3, 9, 12, 16

Jan 30th : **Race, Class, and Consumption**

- *Class Passing*: Chapters 4 and 5 [electronic reserve]
- McBride, Dwight. *Why I Hate Abercrombie and Fitch* (electronic reserve)

Feb 6th: **Race, Performance, and the Politics of Hip-Hop**

- Film: **8 Mile**

Feb 13th : **Race, Performance, and the Politics of Hip-Hop**

- *American Skin*: Chapter 1
- Taylor, Gary. *Buying Whiteness: Race, Culture and Identity from Columbus to Hip-Hop*. “Epilogue: White Noise.” (electronic reserve)
- Tate, Greg. *Everything But the Burden: What White People are Taking from Black Culture*. Chapter 1: Eminem-The New White Negro. (electronic reserve)

Feb 20th **Racial Aesthetics, Gender, and Performance**

- Film: **The Life and Times of Sara Bartmaan the Hottentot Venus**
- Magdalena Barrera. “Hottentot 2000: Jennifer Lopez and Her Butt” in *Sexualities in History*, edited by Kim M. Phillips and Barry Reay. (online reserve)
- “Assthetics: Commodification and Consumption of Black Femininity in a Popular Women’s Magazines” (**WEB CT course website**)
- S. Dagbovie “I’m Real Black When I Wanna Be: Examining J. Lo’s Racial Assets” (**WEB CT course website**)
- Erin J. Aubry. “Back is Beautiful” (link to article from **WEB CT course website**)

Feb 27th : **Selling Ethnic America**

- *No Logo*: Chapter 5
- *American Skin*: Chapters 4, 5, and 8
- Kennel Jackson. “The Shadows of Texts: Will Black Music Singers Sell Everything on Television.” In *Black Cultural Traffic*, edited by Harry J. Elam and Kennel Jackson (online reserve)

March 6th: NO CLASS SPRING BREAK

March 13th : **Performing Transracial America**

- Evelyn Altsultany “Toward a Multiethnic Cartography: Multiethnic Identity, Monoracial Cultural Logic, and Popular Culture.” In *Mixing It Up: Multiracial Subjects*, edited by SanSan Kwan and Kenneth Speirs (electronic reserve)

- Caroline A. Streeter. “Faking the Funk? Mariah Carey, Alicia Keys, and (Hybrid) Black Celebrity” in *Black Cultural Traffic*, edited by Harry J. Elam and Kennel Jackson (electronic reserve)
- Lisa Jones. *Bulletproof Diva*. (electronic reserve)
- Suzanne Bost. *Mulattas and Mestizas: Representing Mixed Identities in the Americas 1850-2000*. (electronic)
- *East Main Street*: Chapter 11 (electronic reserve)

March 20th : **No Class Papers Due**

March 27th: **Gender, Race, and the Politics of Performance**

- Film: **Truth or Dare**

April 3rd : **Gender, Race, and the Politics of Performance**

- bell hooks *Black Looks: Race and Representation* (electronic reserve)
- Patricia Hill Collins. *Black Sexual Politics*. (Ch. 2, 3, 4)

April 10th : **Gender, Feminism, and Popular Culture**

- Ariel Levy. *Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of Raunch Culture*. (Ch. 1-3)

April 17th : **Gender, Feminism, and Popular Culture**

- Ariel Levy. *Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of Raunch Culture*. (Ch. 4-6)

April 24th : **Race, Gender and Reality Television**

- Susan Murray and Laurie Oullette. *Reality TV: Remaking Television Culture*: Chapters 9 and 12 [electronic reserve]
- Eva Illouz. *Oprah Winfrey and the Glamour of Misery*. [electronic reserve]

May 1st: Last Class. Course Wrap Up.

Paper Due: Wednesday May 2nd

