SC 597: Contemporary Race Theory (Fall 2014)

This course is an historically grounded examination of the intersection of race, class, gender and sexuality over time. We begin in the era prior to the advent of the Atlantic slave trade and end in the contemporary ‘post-racial’ era. The aim of the course is to understand how these inter-locking categories of identity have evolved over time. Our geographic focus is the United States. However, we will be particularly interested in tracing the impact of global forces on these social relations in the United States.

Required Texts

Alexander. New Jim Crow.

Bonilla Silva. Racism Without Racists.

Dudziak. Cold War Civil Rights.

Kitch. Specter of Sex.

Omi and Winant. Racial Formation in the United States.

Singh. Black is a Country.

Von Eschen. Race Against Empire.

Requirements

Paper 1: (30%) [Due October 17]

Paper 2: (30%) [Due December 11]

Class Presentation: (30%)

Attendance & Participation (10%)
Unit I: Slavery

September 2:
- Introduction
- Film: ‘Many Rivers to Cross’ (episode 1)

September 9:
- Film: ‘Many Rivers to Cross’ episode 2
- Walter Johnson, River of Dark Dreams (Ch. 9 ‘The Mississippi Valley in the Time of Cotton’) [O’Neill electronic reserve]

September 16:
- B. J. Fields “Slavery, Race, and Ideology in the United States of America.” (electronic reserve)
- Singh, Race is a Country, (Ch. 1)

September 23:
- Omi and Winant, Racial Formation, (Ch. 4, 5) “Racial Formation” and “The Racial State”
- Bonilla-Silva, Racism Without Racists, (Ch. 1, 2)

September 30:
- Kitch, Specter of Sex, Parts I (Ch. 1-3) and Part 2 (Ch. 5)
- Washington, Medical Apartheid, Chapter 1 (electronic reserve)

October 7:
- Kitch, Specter of Sex (Ch. 6, 7, 8, 9)

Unit II: Reconstruction

October 14:
- Film, ‘Slavery by Another Name’
- Blackmon, Slavery By Another Name, Part I, (pp. 1-113) [electronic reserve]
- Somerville, Queering the Color Line, pp. 1-38 (electronic reserve)
- Kitch, Specter of Sex (Ch. 10)

Unit III: The Impact of WWI and WWII

October 21:
- Singh, Black is a Country, Ch. 2
• Von Eschen, *Race Against Empire* (Intro and Chapters 1-4)

October 28:

• Von Eschen, *Race Against Empire* (Ch. 5-Conclusion)

November 4:

• Film: Many Rivers to Cross’, episode 5
• Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights*, (Ch. 1-3)
• Singh, *Black is a Country*, (Ch. 4)

November 11:

• Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights* (Ch. 4-Conclusion)

    **Unit IV: From Civil Rights to the ‘post racial’ era**

November 18:

• Film: ‘Many Rivers to Cross’ (episode 6)
• Singh, *Black is a Country*, (Ch. 5)

November 25:

• Alexander, *New Jim Crow*, Ch. 1-3

December 2:

• Alexander, *New Jim Crow*, Ch. 4-6
• Bonilla Silva, *Racism Without Racists*, (Ch. 5)

December 9:

• Bonilla Silva, *Racism Without Racists*, (Ch. 9, 10)
• Kitch, *Specter of Sex*, (Part 5 Ch. 15 & 16)