SOCY 597: Contemporary Race Theory (Fall 2015)
Prof. Zine Magubane
Office Hours: T/Th 1-3 (McGuinn 418)
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Course Description: This course is a historically grounded examination of the ‘racialization’ of persons of African descent in the United States. We begin with establishment of the first British colony (Virginia) in North America and end in the contemporary ‘post-racial’ era. Along the way we will consider the evolution of Jim Crow, anti-colonial struggle, the Cold War, segregation, and the ‘war on drugs’. The aim of the course is to examine how the meanings and definitions of race, class, and gender have interacted and evolved over time. Our geographic focus is the United States. However, we will be particularly interested in tracing the impact of global forces on racism, classism, and sexism in the United States.

Requirements:

Paper 1: Due, October 23 (30%)
Paper 2: Due, December 11 (30%)
Class Presentation (20%)--Before the end of the first week of class please email me your top three choices for presentation dates
Attendance & Participation (20%) – Please bring the assigned book/article/chapters we are reading with you to class each day. The course will revolve around close reading and detailed and specific discussion of the assigned texts.

Required Texts

Blackmon, Douglas. Slavery By Another Name: The Re-enslavement of Black Americans From the Civil War to WWII.
Wilder, Craig. 2013. Ebony & Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America’s Universities.

Prerequisites: There are no formal prerequisites. However, the course assumes familiarity with at least some of these key concepts/terms:

Colonialism
Post-colonialism
Postcolonial theory
Postmodernism
Postmodern theory
Intersectionality
Imperialism
Marxism
Pan-Africanism
Empire
Liberalism
Transnationalism
Discourse/discursive
Social construction/constructivism
Queer theory
Sociology of sex and gender
Patriarchy

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9/1: Introduction

9/3: “Little White Lie” (in-class film)
Samuels, Allison. 2015. “Rachel Dolezal’s True Lies.” Vanity Fair [electronic reserve]


10/6: Baptiste. E. 2013. *Half Has Never Been Told*. (Chapter 4 ‘Left Hand’ & Chapter 7 ‘Seed’)

10/8: Film: ‘The African Americans, Many Rivers to Cross: Into the Fire 1861-1896’ (shown in class)

10/13: Blackmon, D. *Slavery By Another Name* (Chapters IV, V, XIV, XVI)

10/15: Film: Slavery by Another Name (shown in class)


10/29: Dudziak, M. 2000. *Cold War Civil Rights* (Chapter 3)

Von Eschen, P. 1997. *Race Against Empire* (Chapter 7)

11/3: Dudziak, M. 2000. *Cold War Civil Rights* (Chapter 4)


11/5: Dudziak, M. 2000. *Cold War Civil Rights* (Chapters 5, 6)


11/19: Alexander, M. 2012. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.* (Chapters 1, 2)

11/24: NO CLASS

11/26: NO CLASS

12/1: Alexander, M. 2012. *The New Jim Crow.* (Chapters 3, 4)

12/3: Alexander, M. 2012. *The New Jim Crow* (Chapters 5, 6)

12/8: Wrap Up (revisit Omi and Winant, Bonilla-Silva, Loveman, and Fields.)