

ETHN 256: Gender, Sexuality, and Race
Fall 2008 (W 9:30-12:20)
SSB 253

Professor: Sara Clarke Kaplan
<kaplansc@ucsd.edu>
Office: Department of Ethnic Studies
Social Science Building #220
Office Hours: M 2:30-4:00; W 11:00-12:30; or by appointment

OVERVIEW:

This course offers an opportunity for students to enrich their understanding of the mutually constitutive relationship of sexuality and gender to notions of race, class, and nationality. Together, we will go beyond traditional conceptions of gender & sexuality as lived political identities constituted *in the body*. Rather, we will explore gender and sexuality as dynamic, multi-located modalities through which power and knowledge are produced and deployed in historically and geographically specific ways (Hall, Gilmore, Smith). Two key questions will remain at the center of our work: (1) how have contemporary scholars of race, class, (trans)nationality and indigeneity used myriad disciplinary approaches to incorporate questions of gender and/or sexuality into their analyses; and conversely, (2) how might such a critical analysis of sexuality and gender require significant theoretical and methodological revisions to the field of ethnic studies itself?

TEXTS:

Books (Available at Groundworks or online):

- Mary Pat Brady, Extinct Lands, Temporal Geographies: Chicana Literature and the Urgency of Space. Durham: Duke UP, 2002.
- Roderick A. Ferguson. Aberrations in Black: Toward a Queer of Color Critique. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 2004.
- Martin Manalansan, Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora. Durham: Duke UP, 2003.
- Katherine McKittrick. Demonic Grounds: Black Women and the Cartographies of Struggle. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 2006.
- Tiya Miles. Ties That Bind: The Story of an Afro-Cherokee Family in Slavery and Freedom. Berkeley and Los Angeles: U of California P, 2006.
- Jasbir Puar, Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times. Durham: Duke UP, 2007.
- Andrea Smith. Native Americans and the Christian Right: The Gendered Politics of Unlikely Alliances. Durham: Duke UP, 2008.
- Antonio Viego, Dead Subjects: Towards a Politics of Loss in Latino Studies. Durham: Duke UP, 2007.

Articles available on WebCT as PDF files (**PDF**) or, occasionally, web links.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

As with any graduate seminar, your presence and active participation in class discussions is essential. This class is primarily about critical reading practices, so please engage the weekly readings thoroughly and arrive prepared to discuss them in detail. I strongly encourage you to form study groups to try out your ideas & clarify key concepts before class. You are welcome, though by no means obligated, to use your symposium collaboratory for this purpose.

Weekly Responses (30%)

Each week you will craft a 300-word response to the assigned readings, to be turned in at the beginning of class. Each Sunday night, I will distribute by email two to three open-ended questions which you may or may not choose to use as your point of departure for the upcoming week's response.

In-class Presentations (30%)

Starting on **10/15/08**, at least two students will be responsible each week for presenting on the readings and leading seminar. Your goal is not to merely summarize the content of the readings, but rather to reflect critically on the author(s)'s intellectual and political project, considering not only the texts' central arguments, but their theoretical frameworks, methodological approach(es), and disciplinary (un)conventions. The ideal presentation explores the week's readings neither in isolation nor in a sociopolitical vacuum, but asks (1) how each week's assigned readings work in dialogue with and/or signify on each other; and (2) what the larger theoretical and practical implications of the work(s) in question might be.

Class Symposium (40%)

At the end of the quarter, all students will participate in a 1-day symposium that seeks to present to a broader audience the key issues, themes, and questions around which our seminar has revolved. Each of you will submit a 200-word paper abstract on the topic of your choice to me electronically by 11/5/08, based on which I will divide you into panels (If you have a pre-conceived idea for a panel, do let me know, although I make no guarantees). Over the next 4-5 weeks, your 'panel' will also serve as your collaboratory—the group within which you exchange drafts, ideas, and feedback. At the end of the term, each student will present their short (10-15 minutes = 5-7 pages) paper as part of their 90-minute panel. (Date TBA)

ACCOMODATIONS:

If you have a medical condition or disability for which you may need accommodation in order to participate fully and successfully, please feel free to speak with me individually so that we can

make necessary adjustments. Also, if you prefer to be called by a different name or referred to by a different gender than the one under which you are enrolled, I would be happy to do so.

READING SCHEDULE:

10/1/08 Week One—Intro

**10/8/08 Week Two—Developing a Common Language
(Collisions/Collaborations/Contradictions)**

- From Keywords for American Cultural Studies. Ed. Bruce Burgett and Glenn Hendler. New York: NYU Press, 2007. **PDF**
 - “Race” (191-96)
 - “Gender” (116-120)
 - “Sex” (217-21)
 - “Queer” (187-91)
- Judith Butler, “Against Proper Objects.” Feminism Meets Queer Theory (*differences* Books). Ed. Elizabeth Weed and Naomi Schor. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1997. 2-30. **PDF**

PART ONE: WORKING IN THE INTERSTICES

10/15/08 Between Genealogies: Black Indigeneity

- Michel Foucault, “Nietzsche, Genealogy, History” in Language, Counter-Memory, Practice. Ed. and trans. Donald F. Bouchard. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1977. 139-164. **PDF**
- Miles, The Ties that Bind
- Priscilla Wald, “Terms of Assimilation: Legislating Subjectivity in the Emerging Nation.” *boundary 2* 19.3 American Indian Persistence and Resurgence (1992): 77-104. **PDF**

10/22/08 Border (Re)thinking: Making ‘Place’ in Text

- Gloria Anzaldúa, “The Homeland, Aztlán/*El otro Mexico*” and “La conciencia de la mestiza/Towards a New Consciousness.” Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza. 1987. 2nd ed. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books, 1999. 1-13, 77-98. **PDF**
- Neal Smith, “Contours of a Spatialized Politics: Homeless Vehicles and Geographic Scale.” *Social Text* 33 (1992): 54-81. **PDF**
- Brady, Extinct Lands, Temporal Geographies

10/29/08 Jumping Scales: Diasporic Bodies

- McKittrick, Demonic Grounds
- Ruth Wilson Gilmore, “Fatal Couplings of Power and Difference: Notes on Racism and Geography.” *The Professional Geographer* 54.1 (2002): 15-24.

PDF

- Hortense J. Spillers. "Mama's Baby, Papa's Maybe: An American Grammar Book." *Diacritics* 17.2 Culture and Countermemory: The "American" Connection (1987): 65-81. **PDF**

11/5/08 Inside Out: Where Psyche Meets Structure
Paper abstracts due via email!

- Viego, Dead Subjects
- Jacques Lacan, "The subversion of the subject and the dialectic of desire in the Freudian unconscious" in *Ecrits: A Selection*. 1966. Ed. and Trans. Bruce Fink, New York: Norton, 2002. 281-312. **PDF**

Recommended:

- Bruce Fink, "Reading the Subversion of the Subject" Lacan to the Letter: Reading *Ecrits* Closely. Minneapolis: U Minnesota P, 2004. **PDF**

PART TWO: QUEER RECONFIGURATIONS

11/12/08 Queer Social Formations

- E. Franklin Frazier, "Unfettered Motherhood," and "The Matriarchate" in The Negro Family in the United States. 1948. Rev. and abridged ed. Chicago: U Chicago P, 1966. **PDF**
- US Dept. of Labor; Office of Policy, Planning, and Research. "The Negro Family: A Case for National Action" (Washington: US Government Print Office, 1965). **PDF or**
<<http://www.dol.gov/oasam/programs/history/webid-meynihn.htm>>
- Ferguson, Aberrations in Black

11/19/08 Queer Diasporas

- James Clifford, "Traveling Cultures." Routes: Travel and Translation in the Late Twentieth Century. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1997. **PDF**
- Manalansan, Global Divas
- Gayatri Gopinath, "Epilogue: Queer Homes in Diaspora" Impossible Desires: Queer Diasporas and South Asian Public Cultures. Durham: Duke UP, 2005. 187-194. **PDF**

11/26/08 Queer Dystopias

- Lisa Duggan, "The New Homonormativity: The Sexual Politics of Neoliberalism." Materializing Democracy: Toward a Revitalized Cultural Politics. Russ Castronovo and Dana D. Nelson, eds. Durham: Duke UP, 2002. 175-194. **PDF**
- Puar, Terrorist Assemblages

12/3/08 Imagining Alternative Formations...

- Smith, Native Americans and the Christian Right
- Cathy Cohen, "Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens: The Radical Potential of Queer Politics?" *GLQ* 3 (1997). 437-65. **PDF**
- Wahneema Lubiano, "Talking About the State and Imagining Alliances," Talking Visions: Multicultural Feminism in a Transnational Age. Ed. Ella Shohat. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1998. 441-449. **PDF**