

**Ethnic Studies 200B - Theories in Ethnic Studies  
A Critique of (Post)Modern Projects**

**QUESTION:**

How to locate the Ethnic Studies project? What sort of un-formulated questions and possible strategies of answering would constitute its particular modes of inquiry? The pieces discussed in this seminar challenge basic presuppositions informing modern constructions of the *social* (local, national, regional global) by excavating the grounds upon which modern projects and their discontents stand. This is not an exegetical exercise, though. Instead, we will tease these onto-epistemological fractures where the ghost of the racial (postcolonial/gender-sexual/economic) subaltern subject can be spotted.

**TASK:**

Our task in this seminar is to advance provisory formulations of few questions: What sort of critical interrogations of (im)possible strategies of power/knowledge this appearance inaugurates? Do these specters demarcate an epistemological corner from which Ethnic Studies can intervene as a critical interrogation of (post)modern ontological and epistemological projects? How?

**ITINERARY:**

01/06 Introduction

**Battlegrounds**

01/13 Jane Flax, *Thinking Fragments*  
01/20 Joan Scott, *Gender and the politics of history*  
01/27 Gayatri Spivak, *A Critique of Postcolonial Reason*

**Hauntings**

02/03 Oyèrónké Oyěwùmi, *The Invention of Women*  
02/10 Ann Cheng, *The Melancholy of Race*  
02/17 Laura Kang, *Compositional Subjects*  
02/24 Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire*

**Specters**

03/03 Amy Tan, *The Hundred secret senses* & Alice Walker, *Possessing the Secret of Joy*  
03/10 Closing

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**Evaluation**

Weekly e-mail comments (1,500 words) & Participation	50%
Discussion mediation	50%

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