

ES 200 B Theories of Ethnic Studies: Race, Racism and Governmentality

Winter 2007 Tuesdays 9.30-12:20 pm. SSB 253

Professor Pal Ahluwalia

Office hours (2:00 pm – 4:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm SSB 231):

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This seminar seeks to theorize race and racism and to develop conceptual tools for analysis of the myriad ways in which they have shaped both past and contemporary societies. In particular, it will explore historically specific political technologies of power that have used “race” as a critical marker of identity, difference, and exclusion. The seminar will examine the centrality of Michel Foucault’s analytic category of governmentality – a means to conceive of modern assemblages of power that targeted subjects of rule; sought to manage, discipline, and regulate individuals, populations, and social spaces; and produced political subjectivities. In recent times, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of examining these phenomena and for analyzing the role and impact of racial inequality, racist movements and parties and forms of racial and ethnic violence. The seminar will explore the key arenas within which theoretical debates have been conducted and the range of perspectives that have emerged. It will cover a variety of disciplines, historical situations and geographical contexts. It will examine the origin of race and racism and also seek to explore some important facets of social theorizing about race. In short, the seminar will examine the place of race, racism and governmentality within contemporary social theory. In particular, the linkages between colonialism and constructions of race will be considered in order to highlight the shifting boundaries of race in colonial and post-colonial situations. Finally, theories of race and racism will be examined in a way that allows a gendered perspective to come to the fore.

Course Requirements:

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Seminar Participation: Active engagement with the weekly readings and participation in seminar discussion is crucial (20% of grade).

Class Presentations: Every student will be responsible for at least one class presentation based on weekly readings, designed to provoke and facilitate discussion. (10% of grade).

Critical Reading Commentaries: You will be responsible to provide written commentaries in the form of 1-2 page critical reflections on the weekly readings which will be shared with all members of the seminar. We will discuss these details during the first class session. The commentaries should be analytical rather than descriptive, critically engaging the week's readings rather than summarizing them. They are meant both to encourage careful reflection *prior* to our group meeting and to be generative for seminar discussion (20% of grade).

Seminar Paper: A final research paper is due at the end of the seminar. The paper should be about 5000 words. (50% of course grade).

Week One. January 9:

Preliminary meeting for the purpose of organisation, explanation etc.

Week Two. January 16:

The Art of Government

Seminar Presentation

Reading:

Michel Foucault, "On Governmentality", *Ideology & Consciousness*, Vol. 6 Autumn 1979, pp. 5-22.

David Scott, "Colonial Governmentality", *Social Text*, 43, 1995, pp. 191-220.

Clive Barnett, "Culture, Geography, and the Arts of Government", *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 19 (1) 2001, pp. 7-24.

Week Three. January 23:

Origins of Race

Seminar Presentation

Reading:

Naomi Zack, "Introduction" in Naomi Zack, (ed.), *Race/Sex: Their Sameness, Difference, and Interplay*, London: Routledge, 1997.

Beral Lang, "Race and Philosophical Meaning", in Naomi Zack, (ed.), *Race/Sex: Their Sameness, Difference, and Interplay*, London: Routledge, 1997.

Week Four. January 30:

Race and Social Theory

Seminar Presentations

Reading:

Robert Miles, "Apropos The Idea of Race..." in Les Black and John Solomos, (ed.), *Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader*, London: Routledge, 2000.

Stuart Hall, "Old and New Identities, Old and New Ethnicities" in Les Black and John Solomos, (ed.), *Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader*, London: Routledge, 2000.

K. Anthony Appiah and Amy Gutmann, *Color Conscious: The Political Morality of Race*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996, pp. 30-105.

Week Five. February 6:

Race and Colonialism/Colonial Routes

Seminar Presentations

Reading :

Ann Laura Stoler, *Race and the Education of Desire: Foucault's History of Sexuality and the Colonial Order of Things*, Durham, NC: Duke UP, 1995.

Lola Young, "Imperial Culture", in Les Black and John Solomos, (ed.), *Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader*, London: Routledge, 2000.

Homi Bhabha, "'Race', Time and the Revision of Modernity", in Les Black and John Solomos, (ed.), *Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader*, London: Routledge, 2000.

Week Six. February 13:

Race, Gender and Feminism

Seminar Presentations

Reading :

Hazel Carby, "White Woman Listen" in Les Black and John Solomos, (ed.), *Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader*, London: Routledge, 2000.

James Sterba, "Racism and Sexism: The Common Ground" in Naomi Zack, (ed.), *Race/Sex: Their Sameness, Difference, and Interplay*, London: Routledge, 1997.

Week Seven. February 20 :

Race and Whiteness

Seminar Presentations

Reading :

Richard Dyer, "The Matter of Whiteness", in Les Black and John Solomos, (ed.), *Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader*, London: Routledge, 2000.

Slovoj Zizek, "Enjoy Your Nation as Yourself", in Les Black and John Solomos, (ed.), *Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader*, London: Routledge, 2000.

Vron Ware, "Other worldly Knowledge: Towards a 'Language of Perspicuous Contrast'" *In Vron Ware and Les Back, Out of Whiteness: Color, Politics, and Culture*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001.

Week Eight. February 27 :

Imperial Exclusions

Seminar Presentations

Reading :

Frantz Fanon, *Black Skins, White Masks*, NY: Grove Press 1967.

Hannah Arendt, "Race Thinking Before Racism; Race and Bureaucracy", *In Imperialism: Part II of The Origins of Totalitarianism*, NY: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich 1968, pp. 38-101.

Uday Mehta, "Strategies: Liberal Conventions and Imperial Exclusions", *In Liberalism and Empire: A Study in Nineteenth-Century British Liberal Thought*, Chicago: U of Chicago Press, 1999, pp. 46-76.

Week Nine. March 6 :

Between Camps

Seminar Presentations

Reading :

Paul Gilroy, *Against Race: Imagining Political Culture Beyond the Color Line*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 2000. [British 2000 edition is *Between Camps: Nations, Cultures and the Allures of Race*, London: Penguin].

Keith Wailoo, "Sickled Cells, Black Identity, and the Limits of Liberalism", *In Dying in the City of the Blues: Sickle Cell Anemia and the Politics of Race and Health*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001, 137-164.

Week Ten. March 13:

Violence, Nation and Race

Seminar Presentations

Reading :

Mahmood Mamdani, *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and the Genocide in Rwanda*, Princeton: Princeton UP, 2001.

Rob Nixon 1994 "Of Balkans and Bantustans: Ethnic Cleansing and the Crisis of National Legitimation", *In Homelands, Harlem and Hollywood*, NY: Routledge, 1994, pp. 233-254.