ES 200 C  Controversies in Ethnic Studies
SPRING 2008  Thursdays 12-2:50 pm.  SSB 253

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Office hours (SSB 224): Tues 3:00-4:30pm & Thurs 5:15-7:30 pm
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Many issues that spark public and academic debate involve the comparative study of race and ethnicity in fundamental ways. The purpose of this course is to understand how race, class, ethnicity, and gender are constructed in controversies that have significant repercussions for academic research questions and local community concerns. Of particular importance is the public and political context of the controversial discourse, and the academic methodologies and disciplines involved. Our specific intent is to develop modes of analysis and criticism that can be applied to understanding the complexities of “controversies” from an ethnic studies perspective. Also: In what ways can we challenge the field of Ethnic Studies for its own framing, construction, and theoretical and methodological approaches as they may pertain to a given “controversy”?

Course Requirements:

1- Lead one class discussion [SIGN UP TODAY & follow guidelines below], and participate in discussions of readings every week. 30%
2- Your choice of either A or B (5 pp, & oral report May 8): 25%
   A: Comparison of two journals' articles (from different disciplines and/or positions) on one controversy
   B: A written analysis of a community group’s position on/organizing around a controversy, including observation of meeting(s).
3- ABSTRACT of research paper DUE MAY 22 10%
   Include a summary of the paper’s objective, your theoretical framework, methods, subjects, anticipated findings, and bibliography. Follow the guidelines stipulated by a particular conference’s call for papers.
4- A paper on a controversy [not the one chosen for assignment #2, see attached list of suggestions]. Incorporate/compare media and academic coverage of the issues (approx. 15 pp). DUE June 12 [oral presentation JUNE 5]. 35%

Required Readings: The following texts are all available at Groundworks.
E RESERVES: (see appended list for full citations)
You may print all the required articles/chapters from computers on campus, or apply for a proxy for off-campus access (help: userve@ucsd.edu, 858-534 1857). Please download the articles ASAP, and bring them to class with your notes in response to the discussion leader’s questions. Other relevant readings in the appended list which are not on EReserve are FYI and/or for your term paper.

TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

April 3 Introduction to course and controversies


April 10 Immigration
Leader:_____________________

   Intro: Who are they and why do they come, 1-27.
   Immigration and Public Policy, 269-300.
3- Camarota, S. 2007 Immigrants in the US. Center for Immigration Studies. Backgrounder. [pdf on Ereserves]
   http://www.aila.org/content/fileviewer.aspx?docid=21713&linkid=157219

April 17 Multiculturalism & Ethnic Studies
LEADER:

April 24  
IQ and Race

LEADER:_____________________

- Preface, Intro, xix-24,
- Ch. 14: Ethnic Inequalities in Relation to IQ, 317-368.
- Ch. 22: A place for everyone, 527-552.

- Ch 1: Introductions pp. 1-61
- Ch 5: The Hereditarian Theory of IQ.
- Critique of the Bell Curve 367-378

May 1: Critical Race Theory and Colorblind Discourses and Politics

LEADER:________________________

1- Guinier and Torres. All except 223-253.
2- Obama speech on race and related commentary

May 8: Researchers and Local Organizers

10-15 min presentations on community organizations/struggles & journal article comparisons

May 15: Affirmative Action

[LEADER:______________________]

2- Prop 209, C&V, p. 230.
4- “ Williams in C&V, 75-80
5- “ Thernstrom and Thernstrom, C&V:186-201
6- “ Bowen and Bok, C&V: 114-123.
7- Steele, C. 124-133. C&V:Expert Testimony in defense
8- Steele, S. 144-149. C&V:from *The Content of our Character*
10- Summary of the affirmative action cases at THE U. OF MICHIGAN, 2003 http://www.vpcomm.umich.edu/admissions/overview/cases-summary.html

May 21: Language Ideologies and Education

[LEADER:______________________]

4- Smitherman, G., Black language and the education of Black children, 49-62.

**May 29: Latino and Black Relations**
**LEADER:**
3- Guinier and Torres. Pp. 223-253
-Somewhere over the rainbow coalition, Pp48-61, Visions of the future: 185-202

**JUNE 5: RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS**
You may study one of the controversies covered in class, or any of the following (or consult with me about any other). Incorporate academic and media coverage, where possible.

Pres. Candidates’ positions on healthcare, immigration, education, etc.
Reparations: Japanese internment, slavery, 1930s deportations to Mexico
Cultural representation, e.g. museums
Repatriation, e.g. NAGPRA
The Model Minorities : Cubans, Koreans, ....
Culture of Poverty (linguistic and cultural deprivation)
Civil Liberties post 9-11
Census “bi-racial” classifications
Black and Latino Relations
Prop 187 (old and new versions)
“Birthright” Citizenship (denying children of undocumented)
Free speech/Hate speech
Gay marriage
“Inter-racial” adoption
The ‘volunteer army” (military recruitment of minorities)
Toxic Dumping in ‘minority’ neighborhoods (e.g., Bellmore HS in LA)
Gated communities
Undocumented students: The Dream Act, AB 540
Charter Schools v Public Schools
Hurricane Katrina /The San Diego fires
Civil Liberties: Patriot Act, Padilla and other ‘terrorists’, Guantánamo
Labels: THE WORD ‘MINORITY’, HURMs, Chicano, HAPA, Latino/Hispanic, CAHSEE [HS exit exam ] and or NCLB
Reversing 209
IMMIGRATION reform bills

**JUNE 9: TERM PAPER DUE before 5pm**
**DISCUSSION LEADER**
The discussion leader for a particular week is responsible for emailing [a minimum of] three discussion questions to the class, based on the readings for that week [10% of grade]. Everyone will be prepared to answer the questions, and you may call on students to participate, if necessary [student participation is worth 10% of the final grade]. The questions should be sent out by Saturday noon.

In formulating the questions, you should keep in mind the following:

a- Where do the various authors fall within disciplinary areas, methodological strategies, and political arenas? What is/was the political climate of the time the article or chapter was written?
b- How do the represented voices construct and frame a "controversy" out of issues germane to the study of race and ethnicity?
c- What are the issues that the participants claim to be addressing in their discourse about the topic, and which other issues – from an Ethnic Studies perspective—are involved?
d- Are there contrasting points of view in one or more of the articles? For example, you might ask: "X =author says "quote", but Y= another author says "QUOTE". Are these complementary or contradictory views? Do they stem from fundamentally different theories or views about race, ethnicity, class, gender?

The discussion leader should find some innovative way to introduce the readings [maybe from a personal experience, a contemporary news report, a connection to another reading, etc]. Encourage students to participate in the discussion of each of your questions [student participation is worth 10% of their final grade].

It helps if you have a handout with the particular quotes or points you think should be discussed for greater clarity, or because they are so central.

PLEASE do not worry about "making mistakes"-- we all do/will. Just try to keep the discussion flowing, and help us end up with a clear idea of the basic theories and methods involved in the framing and study of each controversy, and the fundamental or critical issues that are really at stake. At some point, say what you learned that might be applicable to your future research, and/or what you feel is missing. Keep the same issues in mind as you write your final paper.