

The University of Texas at El Paso

“Queering the Color Line:” Ethnic Studies Into the 21st Century

Women’s Studies 3390, CRN 25198, Spring 2011
TTH: 3:00-4:20, LART 306

Instructor: Irma Victoria Montelongo, MA
 Office Hours: TTH: 10:00-11:30am and by appointment
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Course Description and Objectives:

This interdisciplinary course explores the intersections of race, ethnicity, and sexuality and how these categories collide and construct non-heteronormative bodies and identities. By comparing and contrasting the historical and cultural experiences of racial, ethnic, and queer communities, students will better understand how whiteness, nationalism, politics, economics, and globalization define, incorporate, or neglect queer communities of color. Through texts, discussion, films, and class presentations, students will explore a variety of subjects dealing with race and sexuality to understand how norms are produced and conversely destabilized. In addition, this course will challenge students to improve their critical reading, writing, and thinking skills.

Required Readings:

Eng, David, Judith Halberstam, and Lisa Lowe eds. *Racial Castration: Managing Masculinity in Asian America* (2001)
 Jama, Afdhere. *Illegal Citizens: Queer Lives in the Muslim World* (2008)
 Luiheid, Eithne and Lionel Cantu Jr. eds. *Queer Migrations: Sexuality, U.S. Citizenship, and Border Crossings* (2005)
 San Giovanni, Mari. *Greetings From Jamaica: Wish You Were Queer* (2006)

Grading Scale:

90-100 = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C 60-69 = D <59 = F

Grading Percentages:

Reading Quizzes	25%
Discussion Questions	15%
Review of Literature	25%
Research Paper	35%

General Format of Assignments

1. **Quizzes:** There will be in-class reading quizzes to ensure that students are keeping up with the reading assignments. **See course calendar for quiz dates. There are no make-ups for quizzes.**
2. **Group Discussion Questions:** Students will work in groups of three to develop a set of six (6) discussion questions. Instructor will create the groups. It is each group's responsibility to meet and discuss the readings and/or films in order to develop the question bank. **See course calendar for each group's discussion dates.**
3. **Review of Literature:** Each student will choose a topic for his or her research paper. The topic must deal with the theme of the class. **You need to submit your paper topic by February 14, 2011.** A Review of Literature surveys scholarly books, articles, and other sources relevant to a particular issue or topic and then provides a coherent body of written work that *describes, summarizes, and critically evaluates* each source. The purpose of a review of literature is to provide an overview of significant literature published on a particular topic and to help you develop a strong thesis statement for your research paper. You will be required to locate 8-10 sources for this assignment. **Your review should be 8-10 pages long, Times New Roman 12pt. font, double spaced, 1.25" margins.**
4. **Research Paper:** You will be required to write an 8-10 page research paper that interrogates the intersections of queer theory and ethnic studies. Your topic can include, but is not limited to, specific racial/ethnic and queer communities and representations in film, law, literature, poetry, performance, music, politics, identity formation, medicine, and/or numerous other issues that define racial and ethnic bodies and their desires. **Final paper is due May 4, 2011.**
5. **Extra Credit Portfolio:** Throughout the semester students will have opportunities to attend lectures, theatrical events, films, and other events, which will count as extra credit. I will advise the class in advance of any events that will count as extra credit. **After each event students will write a two-page synopsis of the event and how the event contributed to your expanding knowledge of LGBTQI Studies. Students should follow the writing format defined above. Along with your paper please include any flyers, handouts, ticket stubs, etc. collected from the event.** You will create a portfolio of all events attended and submit the entire portfolio on **May 4, 2011.**

Class Policies:

1. **Attendance:** Attendance and participation in class are required. Should you miss a class, you are still responsible for everything covered in that class. Missing class or being late is no excuse for missing a due date or misunderstanding an assignment. Therefore, you will want to make contact with a classmate in order to find out what you missed. **There are no make-ups for in-class assignments or quizzes.**
2. **Dropping the Class:** Students may drop the class and receive a "W" any time prior to **April 1, 2011.**

3. **Format of Written Work:** All written assignments done outside of class must be **typed using black ink, Times New Roman 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins, double-spaced, on white paper.**
4. **Deadlines:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Late work will have an additional full letter grade deducted for every class period late thereafter (10 pts.). Late work may be left in my mailbox in the **Women's Studies Office LART 233**. Any assignment may be handed in early.
5. **Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. **Cheating** may involve copying from or providing information to another student, processing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. **Plagiarism** occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. **Collusion**, involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from the University for such actions.

Student Conduct: [From the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs]: Each student is responsible for notice of and compliance with the provisions of the Regents Rules and Regulations, which are available for inspection electronically at <http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules/homepage.htm>.

6. **Students with Disabilities:** I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations you will need to contact the Disabled Students Services Office in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 within the first two weeks for classes. The Disabled Students Services Office can also be reached in the following ways: **Web:** <http://www.utep.edu/dsso>; **Phone:** 747-5148; **Fax:** 747-8712; **Email:** dss@utep.edu
7. All students are expected to behave as responsible adults and are expected to respect the opinions of others. **Please SILENCE CELL PHONES before class and NO TEXT MESSAGING and/or FACEBOOKING in class.**

Course Calendar: The following is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class. If you are absent you are still responsible for finding out about any changes.

Part 1: Understanding Race, Ethnicity, and Queer Theory

Week 1

Jan. 19 (W) Introductions

- Week 2** Understanding Ethnic and Racial Formation In the U.S. and Around the Globe
- Jan. 24 (M) **Read:** Omi & Winant, “Racial Formations” pgs.13-22
Sommerville, “Scientific Racism and the Emergence of the Homosexual Body,” pgs. 243-266
- Jan. 26 (W) **Read:** Glick, “New Directions In Multiethnic, Racial, and Global Queer Studies” pgs. 123-137
Leap, “Introduction “New” Articulations of Same-Sex Desires,” pgs. 1-21

Week 3 Understanding Queer Theory

- Jan. 31 (M) **Film: *Racism: A History***
- Feb. 2 (W) **Read:** Katz, “The Invention of Heterosexuality,” pgs. 68-80 (**Quiz**)
Jagose, “Queer Theory: An Introduction,” pgs. 1-21
Group 1 Discussion Questions

Part 2: Queer Ethnic and Racial Communities in the U.S.

Week 4 Masculinity and the Queer Body

- Feb. 7 (M) **Read:** Halberstam, “Mackdaddy, Superfly, Rapper: Gender, Race, and Masculinity in the Drag King Scene,” pgs. 104-131
- Feb. 9 (W) **Film: *Tongues Untied* (**Quiz**)**

Week 5 Masculinity and the Queer Body

- Feb. 14 (M) **Film: *La Mission***
Submit Research Topic
- Feb. 16 (W) **Read:** Eng et al, *Racial Castration*, pgs. 1-103
Film: *La Mission*
Group 2 Discussion Questions

Week 6 Sexual Imperialism: The “Oriental” Factor

- Feb. 21 (M) **Read:** Eng et al, *Racial Castration*, pgs. 104-166 (**Quiz**)
Film: *M. Butterfly*
- Feb. 23 (W) **Read:** Eng et al, *Racial Castration*, pgs. 167-228
Film: *M. Butterfly*
Group 3 Discussion Questions

Week 7 Two Spirit Native Americans
 Feb. 28 (M) *Read:* Trexler, “Making the American Berdache: Choice or Constraint?”
 pgs. 613-636 **(Quiz)**
Group 4 Discussion Questions

Mar. 2 (W) *Film: Two Spirits*

Week 8

Mar. 7 (M) Work on Review of Literature

Mar. 9 (W) **Turn in Review of Literature at beginning of class.**
Film: Wanda Sykes: I'ma Be Me

Week 9

Spring Break

March 14-18 *No Class!!!*

Week 10

Writing the Queer Italian-American Experience

Mar. 21 (M) *Read:* San Giovanni, *Greetings From Jamaica*, pgs. 1-120
Film: Kiss Me Guido

Mar. 23 (W) *Read:* San Giovanni, *Greetings From Jamaica*, pgs. 121-240

Part 3: Queer Communities Around the World

Week 11

Queer Diaspora and Migration

Mar. 28 (M) *Film: Paper Dolls*

Mar. 30 (W) *Read:* Luibheid and Cantú, *Queer Migrations*, pgs. ix-60 **(Quiz)**
Group 5 Discussion Questions

Week 12

Caribbean Queers

Apr. 4 (M) *Read:* Luibheid and Cantú, *Queer Migrations*, pgs. 61-124
Film: Before Night Falls

Apr. 6 (W) *Read:* Luibheid and Cantú, *Queer Migrations*, pgs. 125-188
Film: Before Night Falls

Week 13

Queering East Asia

Apr. 11 (M) ***Read:*** Chao, “Global Metaphors and Local Strategies In the Construction of Taiwan’s Lesbian Identities,” pgs. 377-390 **(Quiz)**
Group 6 Discussion Questions

Apr. 13 (W) ***Film: Ghosted***

Week 14

Queer Muslim Communities

Apr. 18 (M) ***Read:*** Jama, *Illegal Citizens*, pgs. iii-60
Group 7 Discussion Questions

Apr. 20 (W) ***Read:*** Jama, *Illegal Citizens*, pgs. 61-114
Film: A Jihad For Love

Week 15

Queer Muslim Communities

Apr. 25 (M) ***Read:*** Jama, *Illegal Citizens*, pgs. 115-160 **(Quiz)**
Group 8 Discussion Questions

Apr. 27 (W) Work on Research Paper

Week 16

May 2 (M) Work on Research Paper

May 4 (W) **Research Paper Due at the beginning of class.**
Extra Credit Portfolio Due today at the beginning of class.