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**Theme Seminar**  
**RACE AND NATION IN THE AMERICAS**

This course will examine the formation of racial, ethnic and national identities in different American contexts in the modern era. We will begin with broad synthetic approaches to the history of racial discourses and their sociopolitical uses in the formation of modern nations, empires, and market economies. In this course, I want to look at the plural Americas as a collection of postcolonial, modernizing societies trying to come to terms with the stark legacies of colonialism and slavery—namely, large (often, unruly) popular cultures of Africans, Indians, and all variety of *mestizos* and *mamelucos*. We will see how concepts of race and ethnicity got constructed in particular historical moments of national flux and need, and how racial-cultural discourses infiltrated and shaped specific forms of power, social reform, and domains of knowledge and identity.

The scholarly literature on race and ethnicity in western (and specifically, North and Latin American) societies is sprawling, so we can only sample a few historical approaches and draw limited comparisons. The aim is to identify some of the prominent questions, themes, and approaches in the historical literature that can be brought to bear on your own specific research interests and case studies.

**Course Requirements.**

The usual: show up for every class with a smile, lots of notes (or at least, some critical questions) on the assigned readings, and an eagerness to wade knee-deep into the class discussion. ☺

Writing and seminar leading: 1) a short essay (5-6 pages) on questions derived from the early readings and discussions, due on October 6<sup>th</sup>. 2) Starting on week 4, a joint seminar presentation/discussion on the week's case study, to be organized with me the week before your session is due. 3) A final paper (12-15 pages) in which you pursue your own research interests. This paper should be based on both primary and secondary sources (and, in fact, may be based almost entirely on secondary literature, if it is sufficiently rich and available for your specific historical case or problem). Make sure the topic, question, or debate is well defined and the argument well supported by the appropriate sort of (primary/secondary) evidence. I would like to have a one-page paper topic statement and bibliography on Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>. Plan to circulate a draft of your final paper on the Monday or Tuesday before your paper presentation is due in class, during the final two weeks of the course. Finished drafts are due on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Required Books:**

Peter Wade, *Race and Ethnicity in Latin America*. London: Pluto Press, 1997.

Kenan Malik, *The Meaning of Race. Race, History and Culture in Western Society*. New York: New York University Press, 1996.

Ada Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba. Race, Nation, and Revolution, 1868-1898*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1999.

Nancy Leys Stepan, *The Hour of Eugenics. Race, Gender, and Nation in Latin America*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1991.

Michael George Hanchard, *Orpheus and Power. The Movimento Negro of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, Brazil, 1945-1988*. Princeton University Press, 1994.

David Roediger, *The Wages of Whiteness. Race and the Making of the American Working Class*. Revised Edition. London: Verso, 2003.

Deborah Poole, *Vision, Race, and Modernity. A Visual Economy of the Andean Image World*. Princeton University Press, 1997.

There is also a packet of articles available, marked by the sign, \*\*\*.

### **Course Schedule.**

**Week 1.** Sept. 1. Introductions. Race and the writing of History.

**Week 2.** Sept. 8. Historicizing race and culture in the post-Enlightenment West.

Malik, *The Meaning of Race* (1996), chapters 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9.

Complementary readings:

David Goldberg, *Racist Culture. Philosophy and the Politics of Meaning* (1993).

George Stocking, *Victorian Anthropology* (1987).

Michael Banton, *Racial Theories* (1987).

**Week 3.** Sept. 15. Historicizing race and culture concepts in Latin America.

Wade, *Race and Ethnicity in Latin America* (1997), entirety.

Complementary readings:

Richard Graham, ed., *The Idea of Race in Latin America* (1990).

Nancy Appelbaum, et al, eds., *Race and Nation in Modern Latin America* (2003).

NACLA, *The Social Origins of Race: Race and Racism in the Americas* (2001).

**Week 4.** Sept. 15. Republicanism, Labor, and Racial Formation in the post-abolition US.

David Roediger, *The Wages of Whiteness: Race and the Making of the American Working Class* (revised ed., 2003), Parts I, III, IV, and Afterword.

Complementary readings:

David Roediger, *Working Towards Whiteness. How America's Immigrants Became White* (2005).

Matthew Jacobsen, *Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race* (2000).

Steven Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet. Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration* (2003).

M. Omi and H. Winant, *Racial Formation in the US, 1960s-1990s* (1994).

**Week 5.** Sept. 22. Slavery, nationalism, and the myth of racial democracy in Brazil.

Gilberto Freyre, *Masters and Slaves* (1933). Excerpts.\*\*\*

Jeffrey Needell, "Identity, Race, Gender, and Modernity and the Origins of Gilberto Freyre's Oeuvre," *American Historical Review* 100 (1995), 51-77.\*\*\*

Emilia Viotti da Costa "The Myth of Racial Democracy," in *The Brazilian Empire. Myths and Histories* (1985, 2000). \*\*\*

Complementary readings:

Thomas Skidmore, *Black into White. Race and Nationality in Brazilian Thought* (1995).

Carl Deglar, *Neither Black nor White. Slavery and Race Relations in Brazil and the US* (1971).

Lilia Moritz Schwarcs, *The Spectacle of the Races. Scientists, Institutions, and the Race Question in Brazil* (1999).

**Week 6.** Popular insurgency, race, and nationalism in Cuba.

Ada Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba. Race, Nation, and Revolution, 1868-1898* (1999), Intro., Parts I, III, Epilogue.

Complementary readings:

Aline Helg, *Our Rightful Share The Afro-Cuban Struggle for Equality, 1886-1912* (1995).

Alejandro de la Fuente, "With All and For All." *Race and Politics in Twentieth-Century Cuba* (2004).

Robin Moore, *Nationalizing Blackness: Afrocubanismo and Artistic Revolution in Havana*.

**Week 7.** Oct. 6. Papers due by 4 pm, please. No class discussion held.

**Week 8.** Oct. 13. Yom Kippur. No classes, but tentative **research topic statement is due this week.**

**Week 9.** Oct. 20. Visual languages of race and gender in Peru.

Deborah Poole, *Vision, Race, and Modernity. A Visual Economy of the Andean Image World*. Chapter 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Complementary readings:

Brooke Larson, *Trials of Nation Making. Liberalism, Race, and Ethnicity in the Andes, 1810-1910* (2004).

Blanca Muratorio, ed., *Imágenes e imagineros. Representaciones de los indígenas ecuatorianos, siglos XIX-XX*.

Marisol de la Cadena, *Indigenous Mestizos. Politics of Race and Culture in Cuzco, 1919-1991* (1999).

**Week 10.** Oct. 27. National Varieties and Uses of official *mestizaje*.

José Vasconcelos, *The Cosmic Race. La raza cósmica*. Excerpts.\*\*\*

Alan Knight, "Racism, Revolution, and *Indigenismo*: Mexico, 1910-1940," in Graham, *The Idea of Race in Latin America*, 71-113.\*\*\*

Jeff Gould, "'!Vana Ilusión!' The Highland Indians and the Myth of the Nicaraguan Mestiza, 1880-1925," in Chomsky and Lauria-Santiago, eds., *Identity and Struggle at the margins of the Nation-State* (1998), 52-93.\*\*\*

Dario Euraque, "The Banana Enclave, Nationalism, and Mestizaje in Honduras, 1910s-1930s," *ibid.*, 151-168.\*\*\*

Complementary readings:

Jeffrey Gould, *To Die This Way. Nicaraguan Indians and the Muth of mestizaje, 1880-1965* (1998).

Claudio Lomnitz-Adler, *Exits from the Labyrinth. Culture and Ideology in the Mexican National Space*. (1992).

Tace Hendrick, *Mestizo Modernism. Race, nation, and identity in Latin American culture, 1900-1940* (2003).

Natividad Gutiérrez, *Nationalist Myths and Ethnic Identities. Indigenous Intellectuals and the Mexican State* (1999).

**Week 11.** Nov. 3. Race, Gender, and Sexuality: comparative politics of 'good breeding.'

Nancy Stepan, *The 'Hour of Eugenics.' Race, Gender, and Nation in Latin America* (1991). Intro., chapters 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7.

Complementary readings:

Eileen Suarez-Findlay, *Sexuality and Race in Puerto Rico* (1999).

Martha Hodes, ed. *Sex, Race, and Love: Crossing Boundaries in North American History* (2000).

Brackette Williams, *Women Out of Place: Gender of Agency, Race of Nationality* (1996).

Ann Stoler, *Race and the Education of Desire* (1996).

**Week 12.** Nov. 10. Race, Hegemony, and Social Movements: revisiting the racial democracy myth and plotting the politics of blackness in Brazil.

Michael Hanchard, *Orpheus and Power. The Movimento Negro in Brazil, 1945-1988* (1994). Intro, please skim Part I, focus on Part II.

Complementary readings:

Jeffrey Lesser, *Negotiating National Identity: Immigrants, Minorities, and the Struggle for Ethnicity in Brazil*.

Omi and Winant, *Racial Formation in the US, from the 1960s to 1990s*.

Charles Hale, *Resistance and Contradiction. Miskitu Indians and the Nicaraguan State, 1894-1987*. (1994).

Greg Grandin, *The Blood of Guatemala. A History of Race and Nation* (2000).

**Week 13.** Nov. 17. Readings and class discussion to Be Announced.

**Week 14.** Nov. 24. Thanksgiving. No classes.

**Weeks 15 and 16.** December 1 and 8. Final research papers circulated on the Monday or Tuesday before class, and presented/discussed in class.

**Final research paper due: December 13<sup>th</sup>.**