

Offered as ANG 6930-5731 in Fall 2005

Racializing Difference

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This graduate seminar will focus on critical anthropological approaches to race and the historically contingent material and ideological contexts within which various peoples come to be racialized in culturally diverse ways. The major focus this semester will be on two racially stratified societies, which have long been the subject of comparative research, whether explicitly or implicitly: the U.S. and Brazil, the lands where Jim Crow and “racial democracy” racisms developed. Readings will examine the forms of racial domination to which indigenous and African descended peoples have been subjected, and how these forms have changed over time. The social construction of whiteness in its various manifestations will also be addressed. The ethical and methodological implications and dilemmas involved in studying race will be considered as well. While the seminar is organized around the U.S. and Brazil this semester, the ethnographic focus of subsequent seminars will probably shift to other parts of the world (e.g., Europe, Asia, and Africa) where anthropologists are studying past and contemporary forms of racialization, especially as they have unfolded within contexts shaped by the forces of colonialism and the postcolonialisms concomitant with processes of globalization and transnationalism. The objectives of the seminar are to expand students’ knowledge and deepen their understanding of current theoretical perspectives and methodological dilemmas within the critical anthropology of race and racism; to bring Afro-descendants and Indigenous peoples, Blackness and Indigeneity, onto the same critical plane to examine the differential modes of incorporating “races,” “minorities,” and “ethnic groups” into convergent structures of alterity; and, finally, to enhance student’s ability to think critically and to communicate analytically nuanced and convincing ideas in an effective manner.

READINGS (in the sequence in which they will be read and discussed):

Lee D. Baker, 1998. *From Savage to Negro: Anthropology and the Construction of Race, 1896-1954*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Audrey Smedley, 1999. *Race in North America: Origin and Evolution of a Worldview*. Second edition. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Circe Sturm, 2002. *Race, Culture, and Identity in the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

John Hartigan, 1999. *Racial Situations: Class Predicaments of Whiteness in Detroit*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Robin Sheriff, 2001. *Dreaming Equality: Color, Race, and Racism in Urban Brazil*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Jonathan W. Warren, 2001. *Racial Revolutions: Antiracism and Indian Resurgence in Brazil*. Durham: Duke University Press.

France Winddance Twine and Jonathan W. Warren, eds. 2000. *Racing Research, Researching Race: Methodological Dilemmas in Critical Race Studies*. New York: New York University Press.

REQUIREMENTS—further details to be discussed

Participation—25% (or 25 points)

Five short essays—50% (critical reflections on readings and discussions)

Final review essay—25% (on at least three thematically related books or films, or combinations of both, one of which should be from the seminar's assigned readings)

GRADING—based on total number of points accumulated. The scale will be the following:

95-100	A
89-94	B+
83-88	B
77-82	C+
71-76	C
59-64	D

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

08.25 Introductions and Orientation

09.01 “Race—The Power of an Illusion”(California Newsreel) : video viewing of 1, perhaps 2 episodes of a three-part PBS program originally broadcast two years ago. (The advisors and consultants included anthropologists Michael Blakey, Alan Goodman, Yolanda Moses, Audrey Smedley, Lee Baker, and Faye Harrison.)

09.08 What race is, what it isn't: anthropological perspectives on the racialization of social difference

Short essay #1—Critical reflections on video(s) due

Faye V. Harrison, 1998. Introduction: Expanding the Discourse on “Race.” In *Contemporary Issues Forum: Race and Racism*. F.V. Harrison, guest editor. *American Anthropologist* 100(3):609-631.

----- 2002. Unraveling ‘Race’ for the Twenty-First Century. In *Exotic No More: Anthropology on the Front Lines*. Jeremy MacClancy, ed.

Recommended:

Faye V. Harrison, 1995. The Persistent Power of “Race” in the Cultural and Political Economy of Racism. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 24:47-74.

----- 2005. Introduction: Global Perspectives on Human Rights and Interlocking Inequalities of Race, Gender, and Related Dimensions of Power. In *Resisting Racism & Xenophobia: Global Perspectives on Race, Gender, and Human Rights*. Faye V. Harrison, ed. Pp. 1-31. Berkeley, CA: AltaMira Press.

09.15 Audrey Smedley's *Race in North America*

09.22 Lee D. Baker's *From Savage to Negro*

Short essay #2 due

09.29 Circe Sturm's *Race, Culture, and Identity in the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma*

10.06 John Hartigan, Jr.'s *Racial Situations: Class Predicaments of Whiteness in Detroit*.

Recommended texts with which to become familiar:

Karen Brodtkin's *How Jews Became White Folks & What That Says about Race in America*

Pem Davidson Buck's *Worked to the Bone: Race, Class, Power & Privilege in Kentucky*

Short essay #3 due

10.13 Robin Sheriff's *Dreaming Equality: Color, Race, and Racism in Urban Brazil*

10.20 Jonathan Warren's *Racial Revolutions: Antiracism and Indian Resurgence in Brazil*

Short essay #4 due

10.27 France Winddance Twine & Jonathan W. Warren, eds., *Racing Research, Researching Race: Methodological Dilemmas in*

11.03 Student presentations

11.10 Student presentations

11.17 Last meeting. Presentations.

Short essay #5 due

11. 24 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

12.01 AAA meeting

12.12 Final assignment, review essay, due