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 By appointment

ENG 4936
 Fall >19
 TUR 2322
 MWF 8 (3:00-3:50)

Race(ing) Through the Nineteenth Century

Course Description: This course will focus on race as a signifier in nineteenth-century U.S. literature and culture and will introduce you to major theories of race that are relevant to the period. We will examine the diverse deployment of racial categories in nineteenth century legal, literary, anthropological, and political texts in order to analyze race both as social structure and cultural representation. Taking race to be an ever-changing and adaptive social construct, we will focus both on the fluidity and mobility of racial categories, as well as their disciplinary powers. Throughout the course, we will deal with some of the questions raised by the concept of race: What are the problems and gains of racial identity politics? How do questions of race, gender, and class intersect/collide? How does slavery affect the question of race? A second major component of the course will be to address the question of what it means to read@ race in literary and cultural texts. The course will focus on different aspects of race: race and empire, whiteness, race and sexuality, blackface, and race and class.

Although the particular focus of the course is nineteenth century U.S. culture, the theoretical issues regarding race and questions about the importance of race in the formation of identity will be of use in thinking about early twentieth century as well as contemporary U.S. culture.

Texts:

Herman Melville, Benito Cereno (Dover)
 Herman Melville, Typee (Penguin)
 Harriet Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl (Dover)
 Kate Chopin, The Awakening (Dover)
 Mark Twain, Puddn=head Wilson (Oxford)
 Edgar Allan Poe, The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym (Dover)
 Frederick Douglass Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass
 David Dorr A Colored Man Round the World.

Course Requirements and Grade Distribution:

Position papers on the readings for a unit. These two-three page, typed papers should be critical and evaluative and not summaries. Please be as specific as possible and respond to all the readings in the unit. The more specific the response, the better. Vagueness will get you a poor grade. If the position papers don=t work out as expected, I will substitute pop quizzes for them.

There are 11 possible days for turning in position papers. Choose any seven days. Please turn in the papers on canvas on the day specified on the syllabus and no later.15%

Oral Presentation: You can choose to do a presentation on a critical text or literary/cultural text. If you choose a critical text, you need to read a few chapters of the book in addition to what is assigned for class. If you choose a literary/cultural text, read some recent critical essays about it and choose one you like best. In both cases your presentation will have two parts. First you need to summarize your readings so that the students are made familiar with what you have read. Second, you should evaluate your readings pointing out strengths and weaknesses. Plan to speak for 5-7 minutes. **Bring a handout to give to the rest of the class.** You don't have to speak from the handout.10%

Term Paper: This will be your major creative component for the course. Take your favorite nineteenth century American literary text, or any nineteenth century American text you're interested in, and read it through the lens of race, using one of the structures set up in the syllabus (race and sexuality, blackface, race and class etc). The theoretical framework for the paper should come from the readings on the syllabus. You'll probably have the most fun with a text you never associated with race before or one you think has nothing to say about race. Remember that you are responsible for researching your topic. Please follow MLA guidelines for citation. Remember that any use of reference material, both in direct quote or paraphrase, must be meticulously footnoted. Plagiarism, while intentional or otherwise, will result in a failing grade. Make sure your paper has a thesis (ie something you need to prove), that there is only one thesis for the entire paper, and that your paper is not a plot summary. Your paper should be around 15 pages exclusive of notes and bibliography. **Abstracts of the papers, including at least four bibliographical items, are due October 18.** Please bring hard copies to share with the rest of the class. For the rest of the semester we will devote a few minutes each class period to your papers.....65%

Class Participation.....10%

Attendance: Students in honors seminars are expected to attend all classes. Attendance means being in class, with your books, and ready to take notes and participate in discussion. All cell phones must be turned off before entering the classroom. There is no way to simply "make up" work for missed classes. If you miss more than three hours of class, you will lose a third of a letter grade for each additional absence. The three-hour absence policy does not mean that I am encouraging these absences or that you should, indeed, miss three hours of class. The allowed absences are meant strictly to cover emergencies (if you "use up" your absences and then have an emergency, you're out of luck). Missing more than eight hours of class constitutes failing the course. If you are absent you are still responsible for knowing the material and turning in assignments, including responses. Work turned in late because you missed a class will be marked down for lateness.

Reading Materials: You are required to bring all the assigned readings to class. Coming to class without the reading materials constitutes an absence.

Turning in Papers: Turn in all papers on canvas. Late papers will be reduced one letter grade for each class period; after one week they earn an "E."

All papers and the panel must be done in order to pass the course. Work not done will receive a grade of "0"

For purposes of calculation A=93, A-=90, B+=87 etc

Syllabus

Aug 21 Introduction

Aug 23 Amy Gutman *What's Morally Relevant About Racial Identity?* from Color Conscious, pp. 163-177. On Canvas

Michael Omi and Howard Winant from Racial Formation in the United States, pp. 105-136. On Canvas.

Aug 26 Fanon from Black Skins White Masks ("Introduction" and "The Fact of Blackness")

Aug 28 From Theodore W. Allen The Invention of the White Race, pp. 239-259
From Thomas Gossett Race: The History of an Idea in America, pp. 32-81
Position paper on theories of race

Aug 30 From Nott and Glidden Types of Mankind
Plessy v Ferguson

Presentation 1: Critical article on Plessy v Ferguson

Possible different time for class meeting?

Sept. 2 Labor Day

Blackness and Social Death

Sept. 4: Herman Melville "Benito Cereno"

Sept. 6: Herman Melville "Benito Cereno"
From Orlando Patterson Slavery and Social Death, pp. 1-16
Position paper on Benito Cereno and Patterson

Sept. 9: Frederick Douglass Narrative

Sept. 11: Frederick Douglass Narrative

Len Gougeon “Militant Abolitionism: Douglass, Emerson, and the Rise of the Anti-Slave” The New England Quarterly, Vol. 85, No. 4 (December 2012), pp. 622-657 (just read the section on Douglas)

Saidiya Hartman “The Burdened Individuality of Freedom” from Afro-Pessimism: an Introduction, pp. 31-48

Sept. 13: Frank Wilderson From Red, White and Black, pp. 35-53

Presentation 2: Afro-pessimism as perspective on Douglass’s Narrative or Intro plus two chapters from Red, White and Black.

Position paper on Douglass’s Narrative and readings for today

Race and Empire

Orientalism

Sept. 16: Edward Said from Orientalism, pp. 1-8; 38-41.

John Luther Long “Madame Butterfly”

Sept. 18: John Luther Long Madame Butterfly

Presentation 3: A recent critical essay on Madame Butterfly

Sept. 20: Edgar Allan Poe “Ligeia”

Position paper on Said, Long, and Poe’s “Ligeia”

Pacifism

Sept. 23: Anne McClintock from Imperial Leather pp. 1-9; 21-36

Herman Melville Typee

Sept 25: Herman Melville Typee

Presentation 4: A recent critical essay on Typee

Sept. 27: Herman Melville Typee

Paul Lyons from American Pacificism

Position paper on readings from 23rd-25th

Playing Indian

Sept. 30: Philip DeLoria from Playing Indian 1-10.

Carol Smith Rosenberg “Surrogate Americans: Masculinity, Masquerade, and the Formation of a National Identity” PMLA 119 (2004), 1325-35.

Presentation 5: two additional chapters from Playing Indian.

Oct. 2: Lydia Maria Child “Willie Wharton”

Position paper on readings for Sept 30 and Oct 2

Oct. 4: Homecoming

Oct. 7: Renato Rosaldo “Imperialist Nostalgia”
 Freneu “Indian Burial Grounds” (1787)
 William Cullen Bryant “The Prairies” (1832)

Indians Write Back

Oct. 9: Homi Bhabha “Of Mimicry and Man”
 William Apess “Eulogy on King Philip”

Oct. 11: Apess “Eulogy on King Philip”
 “An Indian’s Looking Glass for the White Man”
Position paper on Bhabha and Apess readings
Presentation 6: One recent critical essay on Apess

Whiteness

Oct. 14: Toni Morrison from Playing in the Dark
 Theresa Goddu from Gothic America
 Poe The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym

Oct. 16 The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym contd.

Oct. 18: The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym
 From David Roediger The Wages of Whiteness, pp.
Position paper on readings for Oct 14, 16 and 18
**Presentation 7: One recent critical essay on Pym or two additional chapters from
 Roediger’s The Wages of Whiteness or Playing in the Dark.**

Oct 21: Emily Powers Wright “The New Woman of the New South” from The History of
 Southern Women’s Literature, pp. 133-140.
 Barbara Welter “The Cult of True Womanhood”

Oct 23: Kate Chopin The Awakening

Oct 25: Kate Chopin The Awakening
Position paper on readings for Oct 21, 23, 25
Presentation 8: One recent critical essay on The Awakening

Black Female Sexuality

Oct 28: Sander Gilman “White Bodies, Black Bodies...”

Hazel Carby “Slave and Mistress” from Reconstructing Womanhood, pp.

Oct. 30: Harriet Jacobs Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl

Nov 1: Harriet Jacobs Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl

Hortense Spillers “Mama=s Baby, Papa=s Maybe”

Position paper on readings for Oct 28, 30 and Nov 1

Presentation 9: One critical article on Incidents

*Nov 4: Elizabeth Spelman “Theories of Race and Gender...”

William Wells Brown The President=s Daughter

Nov. 6 Ann duCille from The Coupling Convention

The President=s Daughter

Nov 8: No class. I will be giving a talk at the American Studies Association meeting in Honolulu.

Nov. 11: Veterans Day

Race and Class

Blackface

Nov 13: Eric Lott from Love and Theft

Sundquist from To Wake the Nations “Mark Twain and Homer Plessy”

Mark Twain Puddn’head Wilson

Presentation 10: One chapter plus conclusion of Love and Theft or intro and chapter from To Wake the Nations.

Nov. 15: Mark Twain Puddn'head Wilson

Nov. 18: Mark Twain Puddn'head Wilson

Shelley Fisher Fishkin from Was Huck Black?

Position paper on readings for Nov 13, 15, and 18

Whiteface

Nov. 20: From Marvin McAllister Whiting Up pp. 1-49.

David Dorr A Colored Man Round the World

Presentation 11: A chapter and conclusion of Whiting Up

Nov. 22: David Dorr A Colored Man Round the World

Nov. 25: David Dorr A Colored Man Round the World

Position paper on readings for Nov 20, 22 and 25

Presentation 12: One recent critical article or book chapter on A Colored Man or two additional essays from **White Trash**.

White Trash

From Eds Wray and Newitz White Trash: Race and Class in America

Nov 27 Thanksgiving break

Nov 29 Thanksgiving break

Dec. 2: Watch 8 Mile on your own

Mason Stokes from The Color of Sex, pp. 178-192.

Discussion 8 Mile

Presentation 13: Race-Class politics of 8 Mile

Racial Politics Today

Dec. 4: From Angela Davis Are Prisons Obsolete, pp. 22-39.

Presentation 14: Are Prisons Obsolete (very short book)

Reserve Book List

- Theodore W. Allen The Invention of the White Race
- Hazel Carby, Reconstructing Womanhood: The Emergence of the African-American Woman Novelist. Oxford, 1987
- Patricia Hill Collins Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender, and the New Racism. Routledge 2004
- Bruce Dain A Hideous Monster of the Mind: American Race Theory and the Early Republic Harvard 2002.
- Angela Davis from Are Prisons Obsolete? Seven Stories 2003.
- Ed. Richard Delgado Critical Race Theory: The Cutting Edge Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1995
- Philip DeLoria Playing Indian Yale 1998.
- Andy Doolen Fugitive Empire: Locating Early American Imperialism. Minnesota, 2005
- Richard Drinnon, Facing West: The Metaphysics of Indian Hating and Empire Building. NAL, 1980.
- Ann duCille The Coupling Convention: Sex, Text and Tradition in Black Women=s Novels. Oxford, 1993.
- Ruth Frankenberg, White Women: Race Matters: The Social Construction of Whiteness. Minnesota, 1993
- Theresa Goddu Gothic America: Narrative, History and Nation. Columbia 1997.
- Thomas F. Gossett Race: The History of an Idea in America. SMU 1963
- Carol E Henderson Scarring the Black Body: Race and Representation in African-American Literature 2002
- bell hooks, Black Looks: Race and Representation, South End Press, 1992
- Reginald Horsman, Race and Manifest Destiny: The Origins of American Racial Anglo-Saxonism
- Noel Ignatiev. How the Irish Became White Routledge, 1995.
- Eric Lott, Love and Theft: Blackface Minstrelsy and the American Working Class. Oxford, 1993
- Marvin McAllister Whiting Up: Whiteface Minstrels & Stage Europeans in African-American Performance 2011
- Anne McClintock Imperial Leather: Race, Gender and Sexuality in the Colonial Context. Routledge, 1995.
- Toni Morrison, Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination. Harvard, 1992
- Dana Nelson, The Word in Black and White: Reading "Race" in American Literature, 1638-1867 Oxford, 1992.
- Orlando Patterson Slavery and Social Death 1982
- Mary Louise Pratt from Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation. Routledge, 1992.
- David Roediger, The Wages of Whiteness: Race and the Making of the American Working Class. Verso, 1991
- Malini Johar Schueller US Orientalisms: Race, Nation and Gender in Literature 1790-1890.

- Michigan, 1998.
- Jared Sexton Amalgamation Schemes: Anti-Blackness and the Critique of Multiracialism 2008
- Richard Slotkin, Regeneration Through Violence: The Mythology of the American Frontier. Wesleyan, 1973
- Siobhan B. Somerville Queering the Color Line: Race and the Invention of Homosexuality in American Culture. Duke, 2000.
- Eric J. Sundquist To Wake the Nations: Race in the Making of American Literature. Harvard, 1993.
- Mason Stokes The Color of Sex: Whiteness, Heterosexuality and the Fictions of White Supremacy.
- Claudia Tate Domestic Allegories of Political Desire. Oxford 1992
- Frank Wilderson Red, White and Black: Cinema and the Structure of Racial Antagonisms 2011
- Patricia Williams, The Alchemy of Race and Rights. Harvard, 1991
- Matt Wray and Annlee Newitz White Trash: Race and Class in America. Routledge 1997.
- Omi and Winant Racial Formation in the United States 2015