Cultures of United States Imperialism

Course Description: This course takes its title from the well-known collection published in 1993 which transformed the field of American studies by making colonialism and imperialism central to conceptions of nation, culture, and identity. The theoretical basis for the course will be the broad field of postcolonial studies and the smaller, but burgeoning field of U.S. empire studies. We will examine different tropes of empire such as going native, colonial domesticity, pornotropics, exhibiting empire and remasculinization; at the same time, we will focus on the specific sites of empire such as the frontier, Hawaii, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Vietnam. The course will engage with different forms of U.S. imperialism such as North American settler colonialism, Pacific and continental expansionism, control of far-flung colonies, and empire without colonies. We will also examine some cultural expressions of resistance to empire. The purpose is to examine the different ways in which, at historically specific moments, culture and empire are imbricated and to raise a number of questions about the intersection of culture and imperialism: How are narratives of travel and exploration implicated in empire? What are the differences in how the sites of U.S. empire are constructed in the national imaginary? What does it mean to resist cultural imperialism?

Texts: (Available at Orange and Blue Textbooks)

James Fenimore Cooper The Last of the Mohicans
Mary Helen Fee A Woman’s Impression of the Philippines
Lois Ann Yamanaka Blu’s Hanging
Ann Junghyo Silver Stallion: A Novel of Korea
Luis Rafael Sanchez Macho Camacho’s Beat
Assata Shakur Assata: an Autobiography
Jean Sasson Princess Sultana’s Circle
R Zamora Linmark Leche

Coursepack: Available at Orange and Blue Textbooks (309 NW 13th St)
Position papers on the readings due during class (2-3 pages): 15%
These should be critical and evaluative rather than summations of the readings. Raise questions here but be specific and try to link the readings with each other or to issues discussed earlier. You need to turn in a total of 6 position papers but you may turn in more if you wish. I'm happy to read more. Please do not turn in these papers late because we'll be discussing them in class.

Two Oral presentations: 20%
The purpose of these presentations is to make you think critically and intensively about the texts you are reading and to engage you in further research. For one presentation, choose a critical work from which we are reading for the day and do a full presentation of the book. Your presentation should include (a) the book’s main argument, (b) a summary of each chapter and (c) what you found most useful and most problematic. This presentation should take about 15-20 minutes. A short handout for the class would be good. For the second presentation, take a short passage from a literary/cultural text we are reading that week and do a close reading to demonstrate how it illuminates central concerns of the work. This presentation should take about 10-15 minutes.

Final paper (20 pages): 65%
These should be analytical papers about 20 pages in length (excluding Notes and Bibliography). They may be extensions of the work you’ve done for the presentation or entirely new papers. Whatever option you choose, you need to do a complete MLA search on your subject and incorporate the research into your paper. Be sure that your papers have a theoretical angle so that the argument you make is significant not only because of the specific works you are considering but also to an interpretation of certain cultural issues. Connect your critical angle to current scholarship on the subject.

As part of the requirements for the paper you need to:

1. Find conference with a Spring deadline for the CFP.
2. Write the required abstract for the conference, as well as the letter of submission.
   If you are a Ph.D. student, I strongly urge you to think about your paper as a possible publication. You will need to look at some journal issues in order to see how you need to frame your argument.

Attendance
It is understood that graduate students do not skip class. Please remember that this is an intensive discussion class and part of the work of the class is building up a series of discussions which we continue to build upon in the course of the semester. Because your participation is central to these discussions, you are expected to read all materials carefully and attend every meeting. If you are presenting a paper at a conference and have a conflict with ONE weekly meeting, please see me. There will be a grade penalty for missed classes.
Reading Materials
You are required to read all assigned material and bring the readings to class.

August 27 Introduction
George Frederickson The Arrogance of Race pp. 218-221
Edward Said from Culture and Imperialism xi-xxv; 9

Settler Colonialism, Colonialism, Post-colonialism: Debates in American Studies
Sept 3
Amy Kaplan "Left Alone with America” from The Empire Writes Back (1-27)
Lawrence Buell “Postcolonial Anxiety in Classic U.S. Literature”
Walt Whitman Preface to the 1855 edition of Leaves of Grass
Malini Johar Schueller and Edward Watts “Theorizing Early American Studies and Postcoloniality” From Messy Beginnings 1-25

Lorenzo Veracini “Introducing Settler Colonial Studies” 1 (2011) 1-12
Alan Lawson “Comparative Studies and Post-Colonial Settler Cultures”

Henry Luce “The American Century”

Imagining the Nation: The Subalterns and the Indians
Sept 10
Ranajit Guha “On Some Aspects of Historiography in Colonial India” from Selected Subaltern Studies pp. 37-44
Ed White from The Backcountry and the City 1-23
Edward Watts “The Wish for a White West: Welsh Indians On the Early Republic’s Frontier”

Philip DeLoria from Playing Indian 1-10.
James Fenimore Cooper The Last of the Mohicans

Imperial Eyes and the Mystique of Reciprocity
Sept 17
Mary Louise Pratt from Imperial Eyes, pp. 1-11; 78-85
Bruce Harvey “Beyond Manifest Destiny: American Studies, National Identity, and Other Worlds”, pp. 1-26 in Packet
Paul Lyons American Pacificism 1-23
Willowdean Handy “Kaoha! Marquesan Sketches” Yale Review XIV 1924-25, 335-365

Hawai=i
Pornotropics
Sept 24 Haunani Kay Trask from From A Native Daughter, pp. 1-39; 136-147 Teresia K. Teaiwa Abikinis and other s/pacific n/oceans
Elizabeth Walker From Hawai i and the South Seas in Packet
NoeNoe Silva from Aloha Betrayed 1-12; 152-161 in Packet
Imada, Adria. Hawaiians on Tour: Hula Circuits Through the American Empire
American Quarterly Volume 56, Number 1, March 2004ELECTRONIC
Andrea Smith American Studies without America: Native Feminisms and the Nation_State@ American Quarterly 60 ii (2008): 309-315ELECTRONIC
J. Kehaulani Kauanui  A Native Hawaiian Decolonization and the Politics of Gender Epeli Hauofa, “Our Sea of Islands”
Film: Blue Hawaii (Please watch on your own)

Hawaiians or Settlers of Color?
October 1 Kauanui Hawaiian Blood 1-24; 32-35; 197-201.
Lois Ann Yamanaka Blu=s Hanging
Emily Russell Locating Cure: Leprosy and Lois Ann Yamanaka=s Blu=s Hanging MELUS 31 i (Spring 2006), 53-80.
Haunani Kay-Trask Settlers of Color and Immigrant Hegemony@Amerasia Journal 26 ii (2000): 1-24

The Philippines

Colonial Domesticity
Mark Twain “To the Person Sitting in Darkness”
Oct 8 Vincente Rafael from White Love, pp. 1-15 William McKinley Remarks to the Methodist Delegation (1899)
Vincente L. Rafael Colonial Domesticity from White Love 52-75; 237-242
Mary Helen Fee A Woman’s Impression of the Philippines From Warwick Anderson Colonial Pathologies 1-10; 237-240.

Tutelary Colonialism
Oct 15  Gauri Viswanathan *Masks of Conquest* 1-22; 166-169
Homi Bhabha “Of Mimicry and Man”
Julian Go “Tutelary Colonialism and Cultural Power” from *American Empire and the Politics of Meaning*, 25-53; 303-307
Renato Constantino *The Miseducation of the Filipino*
Meg Wesling from *Empire’s Proxy* pp. 1-35.
Carlos Bulosan “The Education of My Father”
R Zamora Linmark *Leche*

Exhibiting the World

Oct 22  George F. Becker “Are the Philippines Worth Having?*
Kipling *The White Man=s Burden*
Frederick Palmer *White Man and Brown Man in the Philippines*
Robert Rydell from *All The World=s A Fair* pp. 2-8
*Paul A Kramer *Mixed Messages at the St Louis World=s Fair* from *The Blood of Government* pp. 229-284
Screening Marlon Fuentes *Bontoc Eulogy*

Americanization and Imperialism: Puerto Rico

Oct 29  Arjun Appadurai “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy”
Radhakrishnan “Globalization, Desire and the Politics of Representation”
Laura Briggs from *Reproducing Empire* pp. 1-20
From *Tropical Kitsch*, pp. 101-111
Alejo Carpentier “Prologue” *The Kingdom of the World*

Luis Rafael Sanchez *Macho Camacho=s Beat*

Remasculinization and Honor: Vietnam

Nov 5  Richard Slotkin from *Gunfighter Nation* 489-533
Susan Jeffords from *The Remasculinization of America* pp. ix-22; 116-127; 187-192
in *Packet*
Paul Smith, *Eastwood Bound* from *Constructing Masculinity*, pp. 69-97 in *Packet*
From Susan Bordo The Male Body pp. 25-59
Screening Missing in Action
Aimee Phan “Miss” Lien “Gates of Saigon” and “We Should Never Meet” from We Should Never Meet 213-243
Yen Le Espiritu The “We-Win-Even-When-We-Lose” Syndrome...” American Quarterly 58 ii (2006), pp. 329-352

Intimacies of Empire: Sexual Politics at the Base

Nov 12 Ann Laura Stoler from Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power 41-67
Cynthia Enloe from Bananas Beaches and Bases, pp. 65-93 Katharine S. Moon from Sex Among Allies 1-47
Ann Junghyo Silver Stallion: A Novel of Korea

Writing Resistance
Nov 19 Nikhil Pal Singh “Decolonizing America” from Black is a Country
Eldridge Cleaver “The Land Question and Black Liberation”
Malcolm X “Not Just an American Problem But a World Problem” 16 Feb 1965

Assata Shakur Assata: An Autobiography

Saving Brown Women

Dec 3 Lila Abu-Lughod From Do Muslim women need saving? Pp. 1-26; 54-95
Jean Sasson Princess Sultana’s Circle

Dec 10 Finish student presentations
          Judith Butler from Precarious Life. 19-49

Dec 12 Final papers Due
Reserve Items

Benedict Anderson, Imagined communities: reflections on the origin and spread of nationalism

Arjun Appadurai, Modernity at large: cultural dimensions of globalization. U of Minneapolis, 1996
Maurice Berger Ed. Constructing Masculinity, 1995
Homi K. Bhabha, The location of culture. Routledge, 1994
Renato Constantino, The Miseducation of the Filipino, 1961

Mary L. Dudziak, September 11 in history. Duke 2003

Cynthia Enloe, Bananas, beaches and bases: making feminist sense of international politics. Berkeley, 1990
C., The Curious Feminist. California, 2004
Mary Helen Fee A woman=s impression of the Philippines. Electronic Book 1910
George Frederickson, The Arrogance of race. Wesleyan, 1988

Marlon Fuentes, Bontoc Eulogy

Eds. Amy Kaplan and Donald Pease, Cultures of United States Imperialism. Duke 1993

Haunani Kay-Trask, From a Native Daughter. Hawai=i, 1993
Luis Rafael Sanchez, *Macho Camacho's Beat*.
Lidia Santos, *Tropical Kitsch*. 2006
Ann Laura Stoler, *Carnal knowledge and imperial power: race and the intimate in colonial rule*. U of California, 2002
Norman Taurog, *Blue Hawaii*, 1961