

Professor Malini J. Schueller

ENG4936

Office: 4113 TUR

Fall '24

Office Hours: R 4-5:30 pm

W 12:50-3:50

And by appointment

Personal Room:

MAT 0009

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/2447969731?pwd=amJBb25uZ115b0tKcXVBNXdPYjd2Zz09>

email: malini@ufl.edu

Cultures of US 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. By reading a broad range of works of twentieth and twenty-first century American literature, we will examine different tropes of empire such as going native, colonial domesticity, pornotropics, tutelary colonialism, exhibiting empire and remasculinization; at the same time, we will focus on the specific sites of empire such as Hawai'i, the Philippines, Guam, South Korea etc. 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, empire without colonies, and base camp colonies. The purpose is to examine the different ways in which, at historically specific moments, cultural texts (memoirs, novels, and films) and empire are imbricated and to raise a number of questions: How are travel and exploration implicated in empire? What are the differences in how the sites of U.S. empire are constructed in the national imaginary? How are questions of empire and gender related? How does contemporary literature register histories of, and ongoing US imperialism? How might literature resist cultural imperialism?

Course Requirements and Grade Distribution

Responses to Readings: A 2-3 paragraph response to the readings for the day. This should be an idea of interest/importance to you, one you would like to discuss and which ties together at least 3 readings for the day. If there's more than one idea that you feel needs discussion, by all means write about more than one idea. Responses should be based on the texts and the questions they

raise. You may skip any three weeks if you wish. Please submit these paragraphs by 10:00 am on the day of class. Late submissions cannot be accepted. Please don't wait till the very last minute to submit and have the assignment close on you. 15%

Two Oral presentations: 15%

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 presentation of two additional chapters of the book. If the chapters in the book are very long, please see me and we can decide on one chapter instead. Your presentation should include (a) the book's main argument, (b) a summary of each chapter you are presenting **except the one assigned for class** and (c) what you found most useful and most problematic. Please email a handout of the presentation to me by 9 pm on the Wednesday before class and send it to the class as well. For the second presentation, evaluate a critical article on a literary text/film being discussed in class. **Please share the essay with me a week ahead of time so I can be sure it's a good critical article.** Present the argument of the essay and your assessment of the successes and problems of the argument. Again, a short handout (two paragraphs for each article) for me and the rest of the class would be good but please don't simply read the handout. **Each presentation should take no more than 10 minutes each so please time yourself beforehand.**

Class Participation: 5%

Final paper (11-12 pages): 65%

These should be analytical papers about 11-12 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. You need not deal with the specific texts we're discussing in class (although you can) but the paper should be about US imperial culture and literature. If you are not dealing with a text we're reading in class, please check with me.

If you are considering graduate school, I strongly urge you to think about your paper as a possible conference presentation. I can help you with an abstract if you are submitting the paper for a conference.

Attendance

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.

When there is a guest speaker, we will meet by zoom because that's the best way for you to have a discussion with the speaker. I'll let you know ahead of time when these will be and will also mark them on the syllabus. **In these meetings, please turn your video on so that people in class can see each other.** In the event of an internet problem, you could temporarily turn the video off. Because we are meeting only once a week, any absence means you are missing a lot. You may miss up to 4 hours of class (ie one class meeting and an hour of another). Any further absences will result in a grade reduction. Missing three class meetings will result in a failing grade in the course.

Plagiarism whether intentional or otherwise will result in a failing grade in the course. Plagiarism means a lack of attribution to direct quotes, paraphrases, or concepts.

Email: It is understood that you will check your UF email daily during the week. Any updates to the syllabus or changes to office hours will be sent on email. If you need to contact me outside of office hours, please do so at malini@ufl.edu and **not on Canvas**.

Turning in Papers: Your papers are due in class on the days assigned. Please submit the papers as Word, doc or rtf attachments on Canvas. Late papers will be reduced a third of a letter grade for each day. After one week they will 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

Help From Me and About me: I am available during office hours to help you with any questions you might have. If you are not free during my office hours and need help, please don't hesitate to email me or wait after class to set up an appointment via zoom.

I am a Professor of English. I was born and raised in India, hold a PhD in English from Purdue University, and since 1986 I have been at UF teaching courses on American literature, US empire studies, postcolonial theory, comparative settler colonialism, refugee literature, and Asian American studies. You can learn more about me and my interests by checking my (admittedly not quite updated) website: <https://wordpress.com/view/malinischueller.wordpress.com> or the English department website: <https://english.ufl.edu/malini-johar-schueller/>

Required Texts:

Tommy Pico's (Kumeyaay) *Nature Poem*

Mary Helen Fee *A Woman's Impression of the Philippines*

Gina Apostol *Insurrecto*

Gary Pak *The Watcher of Waipuna*

Craig Santos Perez *from Unincorporated Territory [hacha]*

Aimee Phan *We Should Never Meet*

Nora Okja Keller *Fox Girl*

Syllabus: This is a tentative syllabus which might be changed according to the needs of the course

Imperialism and America: Debates, Literature, Theories

Aug 28: Robert Young from *Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction*, pp. 1-11.

Alfred McCoy, Francisco Scarano and Courtney Johnson, "On the Tropic of Cancer: Transitions and Transformations in the U.S. Imperial State" from *Colonial Crucible: Empire in the Making of the Modern American State*, 3-33.

Edward Said from *Culture and Imperialism* xi-xxv; 9

Sept 4: Julian Go "The Provinciality of American Empire: *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 49 i (2007): 74-108.

Going Indian: Embodying Nature

Philip DeLoria from *Playing Indian* 1-10.

Shari M. Huhndorf from *Going Native: Indians in the American Cultural Imagination*, 1-18

Kyle Whyte "Settler Colonialism, Ecology, and Environmental Justice" *Environment and Society* 9 (2018), pp. 125-144.

William Cullen Bryant "The Prairies" (1832)

Freneu, "The Indian Burying Ground" (1787)

Tommy Pico's (Kumeyaay) *Nature Poem*
Optional Reading: Lisa Aldred Plastic Shamans and Astro turf Sun Dances: New Age Commercialization of Native American Spirituality *American Indian Quarterly* , Summer, 2000, Vol. 24, No. 3 (Summer, 2000), pp.329-352

The Philippines

Exhibiting Empire

Sept 11: Class on zoom. Paul Kramer will come to the class.

William McKinley Remarks to the Methodist Delegation
William McKinley Benevolent Assimilation Proclamation
Mark Twain "To the Person Sitting in Darkness"
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

Danika Medak-Saltzman, "Rethinking Global Interactions of Indigenous Peoples at the 1904 St. Louis Exposition" American Quarterly 62 iii (2010): 591-615

*Screening Marlon Fuentes *Bontoc Eulogy* or watch on your own. DVD on reserve.

Jayne Luscombe "World Expos and Global Power Relations" in *Power, Politics and International Relations* (2013), pp. 67-84. OR R.W. Rydell "World's Fairs and Museums" in *Companion to Museum Studies* (2011), 135-151. DECIDE ON THIS VS SALTZMAN AFTER CHECKING OUT RYDELL

Tutulary Colonialism and Colonial Domesticity

Sept 18: Renato Constantino "The Miseducation of the Filipino"

Julian Go From *Tutulary Colonialism and Cultural Power*, pp. 25-53

Sarah Steinbock-Pratt "A Political Education" from *Educating Empire*, 173-210

Vicente Rafael "Colonial Domesticity" in *White Love and Other Events in Filipino History*, 52-75.

Mary Helen Fee *A Woman's Impression of the Philippines*

Carlos Bulosan "The Education of My Father"
"My Mother's Borders"

Colonial Trauma, Postcolonial (anti) Recovery

Sep 25: David Lloyd "Colonial Trauma/Postcolonial Recovery" *Interventions* 2 ii (2000), 212-228 (focus on pp. 212-220).

Nerissa S. Balce "Necropolitics and the U.S. Imperial Photography Complex" from *Body Parts of Empire*, pp. 45-90.

Marianne Hirsch "The Generation of Postmemory" *Poetics Today* (2008) 103-128 (read till p. 115)

Gina Apostol Insurrecto

Hawai'i

Pornotropics and Cultural Prostitution

Oct 2: Haunani Kay Trask from *From A Native Daughter*, pp. 1-39; 136-147
Teresia K. Teaiwa “bikinis and other s/pacific n/oceans”
Watch Norman Taurog’s *Blue Hawaii* and Cameron Crowe’s *Aloha* on your own.

Being Hawaiian

Haunani Kay-Trask “Decolonizing Hawaiian Literature”

Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl “Ho’oulu Lahui”

Settlers of Color

Oct 9 Haunani Kay-Trask Settlers of Color and Immigrant Hegemony *Amerasia Journal* 26 ii (2000): 1-24

Candace Fujikane “Mapping Abundance on Mauna Wakea as a Practice of Ea” *Hulili* 11 I (2019), 23-54.

Gary Pak “The Watcher of Waipuna”

“The Trial of Goro Fukushima”

Lois Ann Yamanaka “ Kala Gave Me Anykine Advice Especially About Filipinos When I Moved to Pahala”

Banal Spaces of Empire: Guam

Oct 16: Michael Lujan, “The Banality of American Empire” *Journal of Transnational American Studies* 11 I (2020)

Cathy Schlund-Vials “Finding Guam” *Asian American Literature: Discourses and Pedagogies* 5 (2014) 45-60.

Epeli Hau’ofa, “Our Sea of Islands” in Packet

Bill Ashcroft “Introduction: Spaces of Utopia” *Spaces of Utopia 2ndseries* 1 (2012), 1-17.

Craig Santos Perez *from Unincorporated Territory [hacha]*

Vietnam

Remasculinization and Honor

Oct 23: Richard Slotkin from *Gunfighter Nation* 1-26
Susan Jeffords from *The Remasculinization of America* pp. ix-22; 116-143;
From Robert Connell, "The Social Organization of Masculinity" in *Masculinities* pp.
67-86.
From Brenda Boyle From *Masculinity in Vietnam War Narratives*, 144-164.
Watch *Rambo*, *First Blood II* and *American Sniper*

The Empire Rescues Babies

Oct 30: Aimee Phan *We Should Never Meet*

Hannah Arendt "We Refugees"
Yen Le Espiritu from *Body Counts* (ch2 and 4)

Jodi Kim, "An "Orphan" with Two Mothers: Transnational and Transracial Adoption, the Cold War, and Contemporary Asian American Cultural Politics" *American Quarterly* 61 iv (2009) 855-880.

Optional further reading

Natalie Cherot "Vietnamese Adoptees and Rescue Narratives" *Qualitative Inquiry* 15 I (2008) 113-148

Intimacies of Empire: Sexual Politics at the Base

Nov 6: Maria Hohn and Seungsook Moon, "The Politics of Gender, Sexuality, Race, and Class in the US Military Empire" From *Over There: Living with the US Military Empire from World War II to the Present*.

Cynthia Enloe from *Maneuvers The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives*, pp. 49-53, 288-300.

Katharine S. Moon from *Sex Among Allies* 1-47
Sherridan Prasso from *The Asian Mystique*

Nora Okja Keller *Fox Girl*

Saving Brown Women

Nov 13 Laura Bush Weekly address to the Nation
Watch *Beauty Academy of Kabul* (not on Amazon prime. Discuss)

Miriam Cooke "Saving Brown Women"

Lila Abu-Lughod from *Do Muslim Women Need Saving* pp. 25-53.

Cynthia Enloe “Updating the Gendered Empire: Where are the Women of Occupied Afghanistan and Iraq” From *Exceptional State: Contemporary US Culture and the New Imperialism* (2007), 133-161.

Zillah Eisenstein From *Against Empire*, 148-176.

Nov 18: One paragraph description of your final paper along with at least 4 critical articles/book chapters directly pertaining to the text you are discussing. I would like to give you feedback on these by the end of the week so you have enough time to work on your papers. If you decide on your topic earlier, that’s even better. Send me the description and references and I’ll give you feedback within a week.

Anti-Imperial Solidarities

Nov 20: Amy Kaplan—Intro (need to see more to decide; coming interlibrary loan; ask class)

Keith Feldman from book or Or “Representing Permanent Power” in *Black Routes to Islam*, Ed Manning Marable pp. 79-95 (coming interlibrary loan)

Noura Erakat, “Geographies of Intimacy” *American Quarterly*, Volume 72, Number 2, June 2020, pp. 471-496 (optional or Naber?)

Barbara Harlow from *Resistance Literature*

June Jordan “Moving Towards Home”
“Apologies to all the People in Lebanon”
Remi Kanazi “Lit Up”
“Out of Season”
“Nothing to Worry About”
“This Poem will not end Apartheid”
“Normalize This”

Judith Butler “Violence, Mourning, Politics” from *Precarious Life*, pp. 19-49.

Optional Reading? Nadine Naber essay in *Critical Ethnic Studies*?

December 5: Final Papers Due noon.

Tech Requirements and Policies

You are required to have access to Canvas for accessing course materials and turning in assignments. It is expected that you will check your email daily for any updates and announcements. If you need to contact me, please do so through email (malini@ufl.edu) rather than Canvas. I usually check my email at least once a day during the week from 9 am-5 pm.

For help with all tech issues, contact the UF Computing Help Desk:

Web: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>
Phone: (352) 392-HELP (4357)
Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu
Walk-in: HUB 132

Recording Policy

According to state law, students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited.

Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Reserve Items

- Abu-Lughod, Lila. Do Muslim women need saving? 2015. Online
- Warwick Anderson, Colonial pathologies : American tropical medicine, race, and hygiene in the Philippines. Duke, 2006.
- Apostol, Gina. Insurrecto. 2018. (Ordered)
- Nerrisa S. Balce Body Parts of Empire, U Michigan 2016. Online
- Maurice Berger Ed. Constructing Masculinity, 1995
- Susan Bordo, The male body : a new look at men in paura Briggs, Reproducing empire : race, sex, science, and U.S. imperialism in Puerto Rico. U of California, 2002.
- Wendy Brown, Regulating aversion : tolerance in the age of identity and empire. Princeton, 2006
- Judith Butler, Precarious Life Verso 2004.
- Robert Connell, Masculinities. Online
- Renato Constantino, The Miseducation of the Filipino, 1961
Book
- Eisenstein, Zillah R. Against Empire: Feminism, Racism, and the West. 2004 Online
- *Espiritu, Yen Le. Body Counts: The Vietnam War and Militarized Refug(es). 2014
- Cynthia Enloe, Bananas, beaches and bases : making feminist sense of international politics
cynthia enloe. Berkeley, 1990
- Cynthia Enloe, Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women=s Lives. U of California, 2000.
- Mary Helen Fee A woman's impression of the Philippines. Electronic Book 1910
- Marlon Fuentes, Bontoc Eulogy
- Harlow, Barbara. Resistance Literature. Online
- Bruce Harvey, American Geographics: U.S. national narratives and the representation of the non European world, 1830 1865. Stanford, 2001.
- Shari M. Huhndorf from Going Native: Indians in the American Cultural Imagination 2001
- Susan Jeffords, The remasculinization of America : gender and the Vietnam War. Indiana UP, 1989
- Amy Kaplan, The anarchy of empire in the making of U.S. culture. Harvard, 2002.
- Eds. Amy Kaplan and Donald Pease, Cultures of United States Imperialism. Duke 1993
- J. Kehaulani Kauanui, Hawaiian blood : colonialism and the politics of sovereignty and Indigeneity. Duke, 2008.
- Haunani Kay-Trask, From a Native Daughter. Hawai'i, 1993
- Paul Kramer, The Blood of Government: race, empire, the United States, & the Philippines. North Carolina, 2006.
- Kim, Jodi. Settler Garrison: Debt Imperialism, Militarism, and Transpacific Imaginaries 2022
Online
- Paul Lyons, American Pacificism : Oceania in the U.S. imagination. Palgrave, 2006.
- Mary Louise Pratt, Imperial eyes : travel writing and transculturation. Routledge, 1991,

Ed. Alfred Mc Coy Colonial Crucible: Empire in the Making of the Modern American State. U Wisconsin, 2009.

Perez, Craig Santos. From Unincorporated Territory.

Pico, Tommy. Nature Poem. 2017 (Ordered).

Vicente Rafael, White love and other events in Filipino history. Duke, 2000.

Brian Russell Roberts, Borderwaters: Amid the Archipelagic States of America. Duke 2021

John Carlos Rowe, Literary Culture and U.S. imperialism: from the Revolution to World War II. Oxford UP, 2000.

Robert Rydell, All the world's a fair: visions of empire at American international expositions, 1876-1916. U Chicago, 1984

Edward Said Culture and Imperialism. Vintage, 1994.

Noe Noe Silva Aloha Betrayed: Native Hawaiian Resistance to American Colonialism. Duke 2006

Richard Slotkin, Gunfighter nation : the myth of the frontier in Twentieth Century America, 1992

Sarah Steinbock-Pratt Educating the Empire 2019. Available online

Norman Taurog, Blue Hawaii, 1961

Gauri Viswanathan, Masks of Conquest: literary study and British rule in India. Columbia, 1989.

Meg Wesling Empire's Proxy (NYUP, 2011).

Jonathan Wisenthal A Vision of the Orient U Toronto 2006.