

Professor Malini J. Schueller

AML 6027

Office: 4113 TUR

Fall '24

Office Hours: R 4-5:30 pm

R 12:50-3:50

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### **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 one paragraph response to the readings for the day. This should be one well defined idea that you think is important and needs discussion. Include a reference to the sentences/passages that need particular attention. You may skip any four weeks if you wish. Please submit these paragraphs by 10:00 am on the day of class. 15%

***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 **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 3 critical articles on a literary text/film being discussed in class. Present the arguments of each essay and your assessment of the successes and problems of the arguments. 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 15 minutes each so please time yourself beforehand.**

*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. 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 a Ph.D. student, as most of you are, 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. I'll be happy to help.

### *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. 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.

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. You are required to read all the assigned materials.

Aug 22: Robert Young from *Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction*, pp. 1-49; 57-61

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.

### **Imperialism and America: Debates, Literature, Political Theories**

August 29: Edward Said from *Culture and Imperialism* xi-xxv; 9

Amy Kaplan "Left Alone with America"

from *The Empire Writes Back* (1-27)

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

Henry Luce "The American Century" *Life* February 1941

Hillary Clinton "America's Pacific Century"

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2011/10/11/americas-pacific-century/>

Walt Whitman Preface to the 1855 edition of *Leaves of Grass*

### **Going Indian: Embodying Nature**

Sept 5: Shari M. Huhndorf from *Going Native: Indians in the American Cultural Imagination*, 1-18

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

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

William Cullen Bryant "The Prairies" (1832) On Canvas

Freneau, "The Indian Burying Ground" (1787)

Edward Watts "Welsh Indians in the Early Republic" from *Colonizing the Past : Mythmaking and Pre-Columbian Whites in Nineteenth-Century American Writing*, pp. 23-53.  
On Canvas

Tommy Pico's (Kumeyaay) *Nature Poem*

## **The Philippines**

### ***Exhibiting Empire***

Sept 12: (Come early?)

William McKinley Remarks to the Methodist Delegation

William McKinley Benevolent Assimilation Proclamation

Becker "Are the Philippines Worth Having?"

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, "Transnational Indigenous Exchange: 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.

### ***Tutelary Colonialism and Colonial Domesticity***

Sept 19: **Class on zoom. Meg Wesling will be joining us.**

Renato Constantino "The Miseducation of the Filipino"

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

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

**Meg Wesling from Empire's Proxy pp. 1-35.**

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 Boarders"

### ***Colonial Trauma, Postcolonial (anti) Recovery***

Sep 26: David Lloyd "Colonial Trauma/Postcolonial Recovery" *Interventions* 2 ii (2000), 212-228 (focus on pp. 212-220).  
Greg Forter "Critique and Utopia in Postcolonial Historical Fiction" *PMLA* 13 v (2016) 1328-1343  
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 3: Haunani Kay Trask from *From A Native Daughter*, pp. 1-39; 136-147  
Teresia K. Teaiwa "bikinis and other s/pacific n/oceans"  
Paul Lyons from *American Pacificism*  
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"

Imada, Adria. *Hawaiians on Tour: Hula Circuits Through the American Empire*

American Quarterly Volume 56, Number 1, March 2004

### ***Settlers of Color***

Oct 10 (TIME CHANGE TO BE WORKED OUT. POSSIBLY MEET AN HOUR EARLY?):

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”

“An Old Friend”

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

“I Wanna Marry a Haole So I Can Have a Haole Last Name” pp. 20-29 from *Wild Meat and Billy Burgers*

### **Banal Spaces of Empire: Guam**

Oct 17: 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 2nd series* 1 (2012), 1-17.

Geoff White “Introduction” *We Are the Ocean*

Frederic Jameson “The Politics of Utopia” *New Left Review* 25 (2004) 25-54

Craig Santos Perez *from Unincorporated Territory [hacha]*

### **Vietnam**

#### ***Remasculinization and Honor***

Oct 24: Richard Slotkin from *Gunfighter Nation* 1-26, 489-533.

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 31: 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" *American Quarterly* 61 iv (2009) 855-880.

Optional further reading

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

### **Intimacies of Empire: Sexual Politics at the Base**

Nov 7: Jodi Kim From *Settler Garrison: Debt Imperialism, Militarism, and Transpacific Imaginaries*, pp. 16-30.

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*

Chris Ames "Marginality and Agency among Okinawan Women in Relationship with U.S. Military Men", in *Over There: Living with the U.S. Military Empire from World War Two to the Present* (2010)

Watch *Tea House of the August Moon* on your own

### **Saving Brown Women**

Nov 14 (POSSIBLE TIME CHANGE TO BE WORKED OUT)

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 15: Abstracts for final papers due. Please include at least 5 critical references directly

pertaining to your topic/the text/s you are analyzing. If you decide on your topic before this time, please send me an abstract and references and I'll give you feedback within a week.

### **Anti-Imperial Solidarities**

Nov 21: Amy Kaplan—Intro (need to see more to decide; coming interlibrary loan)

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

Barbara Harlow from *Resistance Literature*

June Jordan “Moving Towards Home”  
“Apologies to all the People in Lebanon”  
Mahmoud Darwish “The Rose and the Dictionary”  
Susan Abulhawa “For Whatever You Ask”  
Remi Kanazi “Nakba”  
“Normalize This”

(Possible ?)Nadine Naber essay *Critical Ethnic Studies*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (Fall 2017), pp. 15-30.

Judith Butler “Violence, Mourning, Politics” from *Precarious Life*, pp. 19-49.  
John Carlos Rowe “US Imperial Culture and Globalization” *American Quarterly* 14 iv (2004) 575-595 (Optional?)  
Optional: Malini Schueller “The Borders and Limits of American Studies: A Picture From Beirut”

December 6: 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 public and in private. Farrar, Straus, 1999
- Boyle, Brenda. Masculinity in Vietnam War Narratives. 2009
- Laura 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).  
 John Willinsky Learning to Divide the World: Education at Empire's End (1998)  
 Jonathan Wisenthal A Vision of the Orient U Toronto\_2006.