Representing Race:  
Anthropological Perspectives

8867 - ANTH 0834 – 101  
Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 – 4:50 PM  
AMLRNC 00207

Instructor: Scott Kirkland  
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Office hours: Thursday 9-11 and by appointment

Introduction (From Course Catalogue)

From classical Greeks and Romans, who saw themselves under siege by the "barbarian hordes," to contemporary America and its war on "Islamic extremism," from "The Birth of a Nation" to "Alien Nation," Western societies have repeatedly represented some group of people as threats to civilization. This course will examine a wide range of representations of non-Western people and cultures in film, literature, scientific and legal writings, popular culture and artistic expression. What is behind this impulse to divide the world into "us" and "them"? How is it bound up with our understanding of race and racial difference? And what happens when the "barbarian hordes" talk back?

Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester, you will...

- Understand the differences between scientific racism and the biological concepts of race and ancestry.
- Understand the historical development of the idea of race.
- Understand the role of media in racial discourse.
- Understand the current issues of race and racism in the United States and Globally

Course Materials:


Additional readings will be posted to blackboard
Expectations, Assignments, and Grading Breakdown

The grading breakdown for the course is as follows:

Attendance/Daily Participation: 15%
Media Analysis Paper: 20%
Final Paper Proposal: 5%
Final Research Paper: 30%
Short Comprehensive Exams: 30%

Letter grades will be assigned as follows: A = 92 to 100%; A- = 90 to 91%; B+ = 88 to 89% B = 82 to 87%; B- = 80 to 81%; C+ = 78 to 79%; C = 72 to 77%; C- = 70 – 71%; D+ = 68 to 69%; D = 62 – 67%; D- = 60 to 61%; Below 60% = F.

Short Comprehensive Exams:

The lowest grade will be dropped, and the two highest graded exams will be averaged for the 15% represented in your grade. These short exams will most likely be essays that combine information from readings and the lectures.

• September 24, 2013 – Covering Weeks 1-4
• October 29, 2013 – Covering Weeks 5-9
• November 26, 2013 – Covering Weeks 10-13

Media Analysis Paper:

For this assignment, you will be asked to select a piece of contemporary mass media (nothing prior to September 2013) and write a detailed 2-3 page analysis of how race was represented. This can be accomplished through the viewing of 2 hours (or so) of television (either cable or network) and collect data on what is said, who is saying it, what kinds of images/imagery are presented. Keep in mind: who is the intended audience? What does the editing tell us about the direction and goals of the production team? What can we infer isn’t being said and seen?... You may also use news sources, advertising, or any other non-televised media with prior approval from me in advance. Please do not use blogs for this assignment.

Due: October 10, 2013
Final Research Paper:

For the course final, you will be required to write a research paper that covers a topic from this class that you would like to explore further. This can be any topic ranging from the biology of “race” to the representation of race in the media. The paper should be between 4 and 5 pages in length, utilizing 1” margins in a 12 point Times New Roman font. You must cite at least one reading from the class and at least two outside academic (peer-reviewed) articles to complete this paper. You may use as many references as you like, but two must be peer-reviewed. On October 31st, you will need to provide a proposal that describes your topic and provides your sources. Feel free to schedule a meeting with me to discuss and develop your paper.

This assignment is due on December 2, 2013

Attendance:

Up to two unexcused absences are allowed. Attendance is 20% of your final grade, so it is important that you attend lectures – attendance will be recorded and this grade drops 5% for each missed class. I will post PowerPoint presentations on BlackBoard, but keep in mind that much of the exam material will come from information presented, in detail, during class. On that end, you are all responsible for collecting notes from classes you may miss – I recommend connecting with a classmate for this. Attendances may be excused for documented medical and family emergencies; if possible, please let me know prior to class if you will not be making it.

Email, absences, and missed/late assignments or exams

If you will be missing an in-class exam due to a documented medical emergency, please contact me at least 24 hours beforehand and be prepared to show documentation upon the make-up. Waiting until after the exam period has passed to contact me will be unacceptable, no exceptions. Same for late papers and (excusable) absences.

Disability Accommodations

This course is open to all students who met the academic requirements for participation. Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact Disability Resources and Services at 215-204-1280 to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. [http://www.temple.edu/studentaffairs/disability/](http://www.temple.edu/studentaffairs/disability/)

Students with disabilities should be in touch with Disability Resources and Services at Temple, located at 100 Ritter Annex (004-03), 1301 Cecil B. Moore Avenue (www.temple.edu/studentaffairs/disability). The Center can provide various accommodations for students, including test taking.
Writing Center

If you think you may need extra help developing your writing this semester, you should contact Temple’s Writing Center, located in the Tuttleman Learning Center, Main Campus, Suite 201. You should be sure to get in touch with the Writing Center well before paper due dates. For more on the Writing Center, visit www.temple.edu/writingctr/.

Plagarism and Academic dishonesty

Plagarism and cheating: NOT okay, NOT tolerated in this course. For more on Temple University’s guidelines regarding plagiarism, please visit http://guides.temple.edu/content.php?pid=204288&sid=1731697

Statement on Academic Freedom

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has adopted a policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities (Policy # 03.70.02) which can be accessed through the following link http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy_no=03.70.02
Course schedule – readings are to be completed by the listed date.

WEEK 1: Introduction

Tuesday, August 27 – Course introduction

Thursday, August 29 – Film: Race: The Power of an Illusion: Episode 1


WEEK 2: The biology of race

Tuesday, September 3 – Origin of “Race”


Thursday, September 5 – Measurement of “Race”


WEEK 3: Human Biological Variation

Tuesday, September 10 – Human Evolution: The evolution of diversity


Thursday, September 12 – Population Differences

WEEK 4: Human Biological Variation Continued

Tuesday, September 17: Measureable differences?


Thursday, September 19: Genetics and race?


Week 5: Ethnology and Colonialism

Tuesday, September 24 – Ethnography and Race


Thursday, September 26 – In-class video: ‘Guns, Germs, and Steel’, episode 2. (2005), National Geographic.

Week 6: Colonialism Continued

Tuesday, October 1 – Colonialism overview

In class, we will discuss how non-race-based factors such as environment, geography, germ landscape, and technology contribute to the creation of race categories.

Reading: TBA

Tuesday, October 3 – Colonial Case Studies
WEEK 7: The legacy of the “Other”

Tuesday, October 8 – The identification of the Other

Thursday, October 10 – Legacy continued.

Media Analysis Paper Due!

WEEK 8 – Racial Formation in America

Tuesday, October 15 – Contemporary overview


Thursday, October 17 – How did we get here? History’s impact on contemporary thought

   Reading: TBA

WEEK 9 – Race and National Discourse

Tuesday, October 22 – Immigration

   Reading: TBA

Thursday, October 24 – Nationalism

   Reading: TBA

Week 10 – Contemporary representations of race

Tuesday, October 29 – Race in America


Thursday, October 31 – An historic overview of the role of race in American policy


WEEK 11 – The role of race in media and popular culture

Tuesday, November 5 – Race in media


Thursday, November 7 – Representations of race in pop culture, Part 1

**Reading:** Nakamura, Lisa. 2009. Don't Hate the Player, Hate the Game,' The Racialization of Labor in World of Warcraft. Gender, Race, and Class in Media, A Critical Reader. (on Blackboard)

(online)
http://colorlines.com/archives/2013/01/10_things_django_wont_tell_you_about_slavery.html

WEEK 12 – More media and pop culture

Tuesday, November 12 – Representations of race in pop culture, Part 2


Thursday, November 14 – Race and the Politics of Youth

WEEK 13 – Rectifying race in policy and media

Tuesday, November 19 – Race, Crime, and Urban Space


Thursday, November 21 – Different Voices, Different Story

Film: Control Room

WEEK 14 – Where do we go from here?

Tuesday, November 26th – How can we use anthropological methodology to continue to examine race in both an historical and contemporary frame?


Thursday, November 28th – No Class Thanksgiving break

12/3 – Final Paper Due by email no later than 5:00 PM