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RELIGION 0833-006 (8059):  
RACE AND POVERTY IN THE AMERICAS, FALL 2013

Course Schedule: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00-12:20, AH 00025
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30-2 p.m., and by appointment, 651 Anderson Hall (6th Floor, Religion Department, just inside quad 644).
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Course Goals:
The goal of this course is to provide students a critical conversancy with the key contours of the social formations of race and poverty that characterize the Americas, embedded as these are in specific colonial projects and subsequent specific nation-state histories and experiences. The course will provide both an overview of the key theoretical concepts foundational to this undertaking (particularly from sociocultural anthropology), and an ethnographic examination of three American nation-state case studies: Bolivia, Brazil, and the U.S.

Course Requirements and Prerequisites: This course fulfills the General Education requirement in Race and Diversity, and there are no prerequisites for the course.

Required Texts: There are three books required for the course, and these are available for purchase either at the Temple University Bookstore or through (usually significantly less expensive) online sites such as Amazon.com. If you do plan on obtaining your books through the TU Bookstore, it is critical that you purchase your books at the beginning of the semester, as the bookstore will return any unsold books to the publisher after the first few weeks of the semester; you can also rent the textbooks from the TU Bookstore, but again this is something that you need to do right away if you choose this route. I have additionally requested Paley Library to place these books on course reserve, though in my experience students tend to do much better in the class if they can rely on having access to their own copies of the texts.

These are the required texts:


Additional required articles and book chapters will be available on our course Blackboard site.

Films: We will watch a few films/videos over the course of the semester, and you should regard these films just as you would the books and the articles in the course--i.e., as texts to be analyzed critically. It is just as important that you take notes on them just as you would class lectures and class readings.

Course Requirements:

Required Readings, Films, Class Discussion:
All students are expected to have completed the assigned readings prior to each class and to be prepared to actively engage in class discussion. Note down at least one critical reaction to each of the readings assigned for each class meeting that you are prepared to share if called on. Our class meetings will be a combination of lecture (especially
during the first half of the course), student presentations, films, and class discussion. During discussions, our goal will be to rotate around the room to try to ensure that everyone has a chance to have their say.

Course Attendance Policy:
Regular attendance is expected of all students: your learning process for this course is dependent on your being able to synthesize course readings/films and course lectures through the mechanism of course discussion. Be sure to sign in on the sign-in sheet that will be passed around at every class meeting. You are allowed to miss up to three classes over the course of the semester (and please note that this includes absences due to illness), but I will dock your grade for each class that you miss beyond this, and I reserve the right to drop any student who misses more than the three classes permitted. You are always responsible for obtaining notes on class discussion for any classes that you miss from a classmate; should you know in advance that you will need to miss a class, and if you provide me with a tape recorder (and a blank tape, if necessary), I will be happy to tape the class discussion for you.

Midterm and Final:
The bulk of your course grade will depend on a midterm exam (40%)—covering the concepts and reading materials of the first half of the course, and a final exam (40%)—covering the concepts and reading materials of the second half of the course. Both the midterm and the final provide an opportunity for you to synthesize your responses to our course readings/films, lectures, and discussions. Both exams will have the same format, which will be a combination of one critical essay (based on a choice of essay questions), and several short essay/paragraph identifications of key concepts. Review sheets for the midterm and final exams will be provided on Blackboard at least two weeks before the exams.

Presentations:
Part of your grade (10%) will be based on your signing up for and then giving a presentation on one of the course readings during the semester. You should be ready to give your presentation on the day for which it is scheduled on the syllabus (unless you hear otherwise from me), and your presentation should be formal, concise, and last for approximately eight minutes (I will have a timer so that you know when you have 2 minutes remaining). You should organize your presentation as both a summary and a critique of the reading, with the assumption that everyone has already done the reading in question. In addition to your critical summary, your presentation should be sure to address the key issues raised in the reading, the historical and ethnographic context of the reading (i.e., when was it published and when was the data it is based upon collected), the apparent agendas (theoretical and otherwise) of its author(s), your critiques of the reading (i.e., strengths, weaknesses, whether or not the argument or analysis is convincing), and what the significance of the reading is in the grand scheme of the agendas of the course (based on your understanding of these to date). Close by suggesting some aspects of the reading and the problems it raises that you feel are interesting areas for further class discussion, particularly those aspects that you may not have had time to address during your presentation. Do a practice run of your presentation beforehand in order to make sure that you do not exceed the time limit.

Genealogy Assignment:
Part of your grade (10%) will be based on creating a kinship chart of one side of your family (i.e., maternal or paternal), as an exercise in understanding the nature of kinship systems in general and the general characteristics of American kinship systems in particular. Guidelines for this assignment will be provided at least two weeks before the assignment is due.

Grading:
Your overall course grade will be based on the following percentages:

- Class presentation: 10%
- Genealogy Assignment: 10%
- Midterm: 40%
- Final: 40%
**Academic Honesty:**
You are expected to adhere to Temple's policy of academic honesty, which is available on Temple’s website. In essence, you are on your honor to do your own academic work, and to view both cheating and plagiarism as reflecting a lack of personal integrity and as unethical. Please do not hesitate to talk with me if you would like to know more about what constitutes plagiarism.

**Official Temple University Disability Statement:** “This course is open to all students who meet 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 in 100 Ritter Annex to coordinate reasonable accommodations if you have documented disabilities.”

[Additional comment from instructor: Please just let me know if you need accommodations for any specific learning styles early on in the semester—thanks!]

**Incomplete Policy:**
Please be aware that Temple has a very strict incomplete policy. Incompletes can only be considered for students 1) who have completed all coursework except for the last, end of semester assignment, and 2) who have verifiable medical or other life emergency excuses. University guidelines now specify that students receiving incompletes ("I" grades) must sign a contract with the professor of their course indicating a deadline by which the "I" grade will be made up, and this contract must also be signed by the Dean’s office before any incomplete grade can be submitted. (i.e., all this would have to happen before the end of the exam period). And University guidelines also stipulate that any incompletes will automatically be converted to the default grade submitted within one year if no subsequent grade change is submitted.

**Course Outline and Reading/ Assignment Schedule:**

- **08/27** Course overview
- **08/29** Introductions; presentation sign-ups
- **09/03** The cultural geography, history, and political economy of South America  
  **Reading:** Intro to South America chapter on Blackboard  
  (presentation sign-ups continued)
- **09/05** The cultural geography, history, and political economy of North America  
  **Reading:** Intro to North America chapter on Blackboard  
  (final day for presentation sign-ups)

**Part I: Theoretical and Methodological Orientations to Race, Poverty, and Ethnography**

- **09/10** The late 19th C. crystallization of discourses of race, colonialism, and global capitalism via Social Darwinism; the unilineal social evolutionism counter-discourse  
  **Readings:** Garbarino: Ch 2 & Ch 3 (Blackboard)

- **09/12** Social Darwinism and U.S. narratives of history: Manifest Destiny and its lasting imprint on social formations of race and poverty in the U.S.  
  **Video:** “Broken Rainbow”  
  **Readings:** Brown Excerpts from *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* (Blackboard)  
  Nabokov Excerpts from *Native American Testimony* (Blackboard)  
  Information sheets on Big Mountain (Blackboard)
09/17 Turn of the (20th) Century anthropological interventions: enter the Boasians, American four-field anthropology, the unifying concept of “culture,” and ethnographic fieldwork methodology
Readings: Garbarino Ch 4 & Ch 5 (Blackboard)
Malinowski “The Subject, Method, and Scope of this Inquiry” (Blackboard)
Linton “100% American” (Blackboard)

09/19 Social Structure I: kinship and social organization;
Social Structure II/ Globalization I: colonialism, neocolonialism, the World Systems Theory critique of Modernization Theory, and political economy
Readings: Ember & Ember “Marriage, Family, and Kinship” (Blackboard)
Marx & Engels “The Communist Manifesto” (Blackboard)

09/24 Social Structure III/ Globalization II: U. S. deindustrialization, multinational corporations, and the feminization of “offshore” labor;
Social Structure IV/ Globalization III: the nation-state in an era of globalization: governmentality, multiculturalism policies, and the impact of neoliberal ideologies
Readings: Ong “The Gender and Labor Politics of Postmodernity” (Blackboard)
Inda & Rosaldo “Introduction: A World in Motion” (Blackboard)
Video: “Global Assembly Line”

Part II: Colonialism, Neocolonialism, Poverty, and the Politics of Sociocultural Identity in the Bolivian State

09/26 Begin From the Fat of Our Souls (Crandon-Malamud)
Readings: Crandon-Malamud Preface, Intro, Ch 1-3
***GENEALOGY ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS***

10/01 Readings: Crandon-Malamud Ch 4-6
10/03 Readings: Crandon-Malamud Ch 7-9
10/08 Readings: Crandon-Malamud Ch 10-12 & Appendices

10/10 ***MIDTERM (during our regular class period, in our regular classroom)***

Part III: Colonialism, Postcolonialism, Poverty, and Politics of Sociocultural Identity in Brazil

10/15 Begin Laughter Out of Place (Goldstein)
Readings: Goldstein: Foreword, Introduction, and Ch 1
Film: “City of God” (Part I)

10/17 Readings: Goldstein Ch 2 & Ch 3
Film: “City of God” (Part II)

10/22 Readings: Goldstein Ch 4 & Ch 5
Film: “City of God” (Part III)

10/24 Readings: Goldstein Ch 6 & Ch 7
Guest speaker (via Skype): Dr. Donna Goldstein
Part IV: Poverty, the Politics of Sociocultural Identity, and the US State in an Era of Neoliberalism

10/29  Begin *The New Poverty Studies* (Goode & Maskovsky, eds)
*Readings:* Susser (Preface), Goode & Maskovsky (Introduction)

10/31  *Readings:* Part I: New Dimensions of Inequality, Mullings (1), Kwong (2)

11/05  *Readings:* Williams (3), Zavella (4)

11/07  *Readings:* Part II: The Fallacy of “Reform,” Piven (5), Morgan & Weight (6)

11/12  *Readings:* Stack (7), Part III: Poverty and Neoliberal Governance, Hyatt (8)

11/14  *Readings:* Goldstein (9), Kingfisher (10)

11/19  *Readings:* Lyon-Callo (11), Part IV Poverty, Difference, and Activism, Glick Schiller and Fouron (12)

11/21  Post-multiculturalism narratives of race in the U.S.
*Video:* “Just Black”

11/26  (Temple: Tuesday class following Thursday schedule)
*Readings:* Goode (13), Weinbaum (14)
*Guest Speaker:* Dr. Judith Goode

11/28  **NO CLASS—HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

12/03  **Final class meeting**
*Readings:* Part V: Theories, Politics, and Policy, Ruben (15), Maskovsky (Afterword)

12/12  ***FINAL EXAM TUESDAY DECEMBER 10TH, 10:30 AM-12:30 P.M., IN OUR REGULAR CLASSROOM***

*Have a wonderful winter break!*