

Popular Culture in the Americas: Case Studies in Race, Gender, and Sexuality
(LALS 502/GWS 594)
Stevenson Hall 104
Thursday 2-5
Spring 2008

Professor Frances Aparicio

Office: 1523 UH

Office Hours: 1-2 Tuesday and Thursday and by appointment

Office Phone: 312-996-2279

email: franapar@uic.edu

Professor Jennifer Brier

Office: 1822 UH

Office Hours: Thursday 11-12 and by appointment

Office Phone: 312-413-2458

email: jbrier@uic.edu

Despite a history of common intellectual and political objectives, race, gender and sexuality often have been studied in segmented ways. This course will explore how scholars with interdisciplinary approaches and methods have tried to address these gaps and detail the intersectionality of race, gender, class and sexuality through an analysis of popular culture.

We expect you to come to class ready to have in depth conversations about the texts, and over the course of the semester hope that you will be able to draw comparisons between the literature. In addition to the books ordered at the bookstore, articles will be posted on the blackboard website and appear on the syllabus with a (BB).

Books:

Nestor Garcia Canclini, *Transforming Modernity* (Texas 1992)

David Eng, *Racial Castration* (Duke 2001)

E. Patrick Johnson and Mae Henderson, eds., *Black Queer Studies*, (BQS) (Duke 2005)

Amy Kaplan, *The Anarchy of Empire and the Making of U.S. Culture* (Harvard 2002)

Josh Kun, *Audiotopia* (California 2005)

Lisa Lowe, *Immigrant Acts* (Duke 1996)

Juana Maria Rodriguez, *Queer Latinidad* (NYU 2003)

David Román, *Acts of Intervention* (Indiana 1998)

Celine Shimizu, *The Hypersexuality of Race* (Duke 2007)

Course Requirements:

You will write two short essay that bring together the topics and materials we have discussed in class. We will distribute questions for the essays two week prior to the due date. The first short essay will due Feb. 21, and the second will be due March 20. (15% each)

You will also need to complete an annotated bibliography on a topic covered in class. The bibliography will be due on April 24. We will discuss how to choose topics and the particulars of the assignment later in the semester. (20%)

You will write a final take home exam modeled on a comprehensive exam. We will distribute the exam on April 24. (30%)

In addition to regular class participation, you will need to lead a class discussion on an article of your choosing. (20%)

January 17:
Introductions

Jan 24: Theories of Intersectionality and Hybridity
Kimberle Crenshaw, "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex" (BB)
Chela Sandoval, "U.S. Third World Feminism: The Theory and Method of Oppositional Consciousness in the Postmodern World" (BB)
Gloria Anzaldua, "La Conciencia de la Mestiza: Toward a new consciousness" (BB)
Stuart Hall, "Cultural Identity and Diaspora" (BB)
Ella Shoat, "Area Studies, Gender Studies, and the Cartographies of Knowledge" (BB)
Cathy Cohen, "Punks, bulldaggers, and welfare queens: the radical potential of queer politics?" (BQS)

Jan. 31: Theories of Popular Culture
Nestor Garcia Canclini, *Transforming Modernity*
George Lipsitz, *Time Passages* (selections) (BB)
Stuart Hall, What is this "Black" in Black cultural studies? (BB)
Jean Franco, "What's Left of the Intelligentsia?" (BB)

Feb. 7: Intersections of Queer Studies and Ethnic Studies I
Lecture by Dean Dwight McBride
Introduction to *Black Queer Studies*
E. Patrick Johnson, "'Quare' Studies" (BQS)
Dwight McBride, "Straight Black studies: on African American studies, James Baldwin, and Black queer studies" (BQS)
Walcott, "Outside in Black Studies" (BQS)
Essay #1 Questions distributed

Feb. 14: Intersections of Queer Studies and Ethnic Studies II
Lecture by Prof. Gayatri Reddy (GWS and Anthropology)
Juana Maria Rodriguez, *Queer Latinidad*, Introduction
Lisa Lowe, *Immigrant Acts*, Chapters 2 and 3
David Eng, "Out Here and Over There" (BB)
Gayatri Gopinath, "The Transnational Trajectory of Deepa Metha's Fire" (BB)

Feb. 21: Race and Masculinity

David Eng, *Racial Castration*

Rudolfo Anaya, "I'm the King: The Macho Image" (BB)

Dagoberto Gilb, "Me Macho, You Jane" (BB)

Richard T. Rodriguez, "The Verse of the Godfather" (BB)

Judith Halberstam, "Mackdaddy, Superfly, Rapper" (BB)

Essay #1 Due

Feb. 28: Race and Femininity

Lecture by Prof. Natasha Barnes (AAST and English)

Frances Aparicio, "Ethnifying Rhythms, Feminizing Cultures" (BB)

Vera Kutzinsky, *Sugar's Secrets*, Chapter 2 (BB)

Michelle Cliff, "Claiming an Identity they Taught me to Despise" (BB)

Rosalinda Fregoso, "Toward a Planetary Civil Society" (BB)

Ana Castillo, "A Countryless Woman" (BB)

March 6: Intercultural Sites in Popular Music

Josh Kun, *Audiotopia*

Oliver Wang, "Rapping and Repping Asian" (BB)

Sunaina Maira, article on Henna and Hip Hop (BB)

Tricia Rose, "Bad Sistas" (BB)

Tricia Rose, "Black Texts/Black Contexts" (BB)

Essay #2 Questions distributed

March 13: Film, Sexuality and Spectatorship I

Celine Shimtza, *The Hypersexuality of Race*

Laura Mulvey, "The Female Gaze" (BB)

Angharad Valdivia, "Women of Color in the Audience" (BB)

Film showings

March 20: Film, Sexuality and Spectatorship II

Shiobhan Somerville, *Queering the Color Line*, Chapter 2 (BB)

Kara Keeling, "Joining the Lesbians" (BQS)

Vicky Ruiz, "Star Struck" (BB)

Essay #2 Due

March 27: Spring Break

April 3: AIDS

David Román, *Acts of Intervention*

Juana Maria Rodriguez, *Queer Latinidad*, Chapter 2

ACT UP Slide Show (BB)

April 10: Empire

Amy Kaplan, *The Anarchy of Empire and the Making of U.S. Culture*

Amanda Third, "Does the Rug Match the Carpet?" (BB)

Donna Haraway, "The Teddy Bear Patriarchy" (BB)

April 17: From Racial Minorities to Foreign Others: Race, Gender and Immigration
Lecture by Prof. Amalia Pallares (LALS and Political Science)

Lisa Lowe, *Immigrant Acts*, Chapters 1 and 4-7

Juana Maria Rodriguez, *Queer Latinidad*, Chapter 3

Shiobhan Somerville, "Queer Loving" (BB)

Amalia Pallares, "Representing La Familia" (BB)

April 24: Globalization and the War on Terror

Maria Josefina Saldana-Portillo, "From the Borderlands to the transnational: Critiquing
Empire in the 21st century" (BB)

Diana Taylor, "Trapped in bad scripts: The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo" (BB)

Jasbir Puar and Amit Rai, "Monster, Terrorist Fag" and "The Remaking of a Model
Minority" (BB)

Annotated Bibliography Due

Final Exam distributed

May 1: Wrap Up Day

Final Exam due Tuesday May 6, 2008