

**Introduction to Ethnic Studies:  
Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States  
Ethnic Studies 1C**

**Spring Quarter 2008**

**Professor:** K. Wayne Yang

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**Office Hours:**    Mondays 2 – 3:30 pm @ Cross Cultural Center

Tuesdays noon – 1:30 @ Social Sciences Building 222

**Class Meets:** MWF 1- 1:50 pm, Peterson Hall 108

**Graduate Teaching Assistants:** Bing Aradanas, Angela Kong, Cathleen Kozen, Angela Morrill, Ma Vang, Traci Voyles

**Course Description**

Despite the deep historical roots of visions of the “assimilation” of immigrants, the “extinction” of indigenous peoples, and the emergence of a “color-blind” society, the social construction of race and ethnicity continues to exert potent social and political and effects in the 21st century. This course introduces students to the basic social and theoretical issues in the field of race and ethnic relations, paying particular attention to the complex relationship between race, rights, and citizenship. We will be attentive to the intersectionality of race, class, and gender; that is, to the ways in which these categories operate with and through each other to produce and maintain social inequality.

**Required Texts**

Available at UCSD Groundworks (452-9625):

- 1) Mae M. Ngai. 2004. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Princeton University Press.
- 2) Lorena Oropeza. 2005. *Razi Si! Guerra No! Chicano Protest and Patriotism During the Viet Nam War Era*. University of California Press.
- 3) Thomas Shapiro. 2004. *The Hidden Cost of Being African American: How Wealth Perpetuates Inequality*. Oxford University Press.
- 4) Jeff Chang. 2005. *Can't stop, won't stop: A history of the hip-hop generation*. St. Martin's Press.

**Majoring or Minor in Ethnic Studies at UCSD**

Many students take an ethnic studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of “interest” yet have no information about the major or minor and don’t realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An ethnic studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, public policy, government and politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the ethnic studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Yolanda Escamilla, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, at 858-534-3277 or [yescamilla@ucsd.edu](mailto:yescamilla@ucsd.edu).

<b>Evaluation:</b> Participation and attendance in sections .....	20%
Assignment # 1: Due 4/18 (3rd week) .....	15%
Midterm Exam: May 2 (5th week) .....	20%
Assignment # 2: Due 5/23 (8th week) .....	15%
Final Exam: June 6 (10 <sup>th</sup> week) .....	30%

**Note:** *you must complete all course requirements in order to earn a passing grade for the course.*

- **Participation grade:** The class participation grade will be calculated based on your regular involvement in your sections with the Graduate Teaching Assistants. You are responsible for staying abreast of the reading materials each week so that you can fully participate in your section discussions. Discussions will also cover lectures and films. *Note: You must receive a passing grade in section to pass the course. Section grades will be assigned by the TAs, in consultation with the Professor.*
- **Assignments # 1 and # 2:** Assignment prompts will be given to you one week prior to the due date. They are due in class on the dates indicated above.
- **Midterm and Final Examinations:** The midterm will be an in-class exam; the final will be a combination of take-home and in-class examination. Both exams require the use of course readings, lectures, section discussions, and films to answer questions.

**ADA Statement:** If you have a disability or condition that compromises your ability to complete the requirements of this course, you should inform me as soon as possible of your needs. I will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate you. If, as a result of a disability, you cannot accept the content or terms of this syllabus, you need to notify me in writing within one week of receiving it.

**Policy on Late Papers and Make-up Assignments:** Excepting emergencies, I do not allow late papers and do not allow make-up assignments. You have the syllabus well enough in advance to know what is due and when.

**Ground Rules:** The number one ground rule to which we will all adhere is to engage in respectful and considerate debate and discussion in the classroom. Abusive and harsh language will not be tolerated. These ground rules are reflected in the UCSD Principles of Community, which we are all expected to follow (see <http://wwwvcba.ucsd.edu/principles.htm>).

**Cheating and Plagiarism:** Cheating and/or plagiarism are not tolerated behaviors at UCSD. If you are caught cheating on an exam or quiz, it will result in a failing grade and your infraction will be referred to the dean of your college for disciplinary action. If there is any suspicion that your paper or assignments have been plagiarized, the case will be forwarded to the dean of your college for further investigation and appropriate disciplinary action.

## Unit One

### The Social Construction of Race, Citizenship, and the Nation-State

Week 1. (March 31 – April 4) Racial Formation, policy & history  
Reading: Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects*, pp. 1-14.

Week 2. (April 7 – 11) Hegemony, Culture, and Racial difference  
Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects*, Part I, pp. 17-90

Week 3. (April 14 – 18) “Imported Colonialism”: Race and Labor  
Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects*, Part II, pp. 93-166  
**Note: Assignment #1 due Friday, April 18**

Week 4. (April 21 – 25) Reform, Reproduction, and Resistance  
Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects*, Ch. 7, pp. 227-264  
Lorena Oropeza, *Raza Si! Guerra No!*, Intro & Chs. 1-2, pp. 1-79

## Unit Two

### Resistance, Identity, and Organizing in Post-Civil Rights U.S.

Week 5. (April 28 – May 2) Intersectionality, Identity, Organizing  
Lorena Oropeza, *Raza Si! Guerra No!* Chs. 3-5, pp. 80-182.  
**Note: Midterm May 2**

Week 6. (May 5 – 9) The Material Effects of Racism  
Thomas Shapiro, *The Hidden Cost*, Introduction and Chs. 1-3, pp. 1-84

Week 7. (May 12 – 16) The Sedimentation of Racial Inequality  
Thomas Shapiro, *The Hidden Cost*, Chs. 4-7, and Conclusion, pp. 87-210.

Week 8. (May 19 – 23) Popular Culture and Social Movements  
Jeff Chang, *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*, Prelude & Loops 1-2, pp. 1-211.  
**Note: Assignment # 2 due Friday, May 23**

Week 9. (May ~~26~~ – 30) Rights, Activism, and Transnational Politics  
Jeff Chang, *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*, Loop 3, pp. 215-353.  
**Note: No class Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day)**

Week 10. (June 2 – 6) Imagining and Forgetting: A New/Old World Order  
Jeff Chang, *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*, Loop 4, pp. 357-465.  
**Note: Final Exam is both take-home and in-class**