

# THE TRANSNATIONAL PHILIPPINES: HISTORY AND IMPERIALISM

<Ethnic Studies 189>

Instructor: **Harrod J Suarez**  
Winter Quarter 2007

Class: **MWF 12-12:50p U413**  
Office Hours: **MW 1-2:30p or by appointment; location TBA**

## DESCRIPTION

This course explores the stakes involved in writing Philippine history. Traditionally, this discourse has had a national focus, narrating the history of the Philippines in a sort of vacuum, separated from transnational processes such as imperialism, migration, and artistic production. What does Philippine history look like if we pay more attention to these transnational contexts? How are concepts of race, sexuality, and nationalism transformed by this shift in perspective? Since many Philippine historians have asserted the link between writing history and political organizing, how does the very idea of politics change?

We will pursue these ideas not only by considering some critical texts in contemporary Philippine historiography, but also through several fictional texts, including novels and films. This move suggests that these creative works can contribute to a new understanding of Philippine history as a transnational phenomenon. We begin with the diary of Antonio Pigafetta, which already points the way to all the issues that plague the writing of Philippine history. We will focus on the Philippine history of the 1970s, as events like Martial Law, the Tasaday “hoax,” and the filming of *Apocalypse Now* come together in Jessica Hagedorn’s novel, *Dream Jungle*. Two other novels and two films will lead us to other provocative ideas.

The course, in short, focuses on:

- 1> the political challenge to the relationship linking history to nationalism;
- 2> how Philippine history, in particular, is transformed by this challenge; and
- 3> what fictional and creative works have to do with writing history.

## TEXTS

Noel Alunit, *Letters to Montgomery Clift*  
Jessica Hagedorn, *Dream Jungle*  
R. Zamora Linmark, *Rolling the R's*  
E-reserve articles

- > Books are available at Groundworks and on reserve at Geisel.
- > E-reserve articles can be accessed online.

## GRADING

<u>Point distribution</u>		<u>Scale</u>			
Attendance:	10	A	93-100 pts	C	73-75
Response Papers:	20	A-	90-93	C-	70-72
Midterm:	25	B+	86-89	D+	66-69
History Paper:	20	B	83-85	D	63-65
Final Paper/Exam:	25	B-	80-82	D-	60-62
Total:	100 pts	C+	76-79	F	below 60

## ASSIGNMENTS

1. Two response papers submitted at the students' discretion, although one must be submitted before the midterm. These papers should summarize one reading and analyze how it relates to the course; it should also ask questions that the reading leaves unanswered for the course. One page.

**2 papers x 10 points each = 20 points**

2. Midterm: This will be a takehome exam. Students will have a weekend to complete a three-page paper responding to a single prompt.

**25 points**

3. History Paper: The requirements for this paper will be addressed in class. In general, students will be expected to contribute to the writing of a new history of the Philippines. Three pages.

**20 points**

4. Final Paper/Exam: Students will have the option of writing a final paper or completing a final exam during the designated hours. The requirements for the final three-page paper will be addressed in class.

**25 points**

**For all papers, please adhere to the following format: 12 pt. Times New Roman, 1" margins, double-spaced. Failure to observe these requirements may result in a lower grade.**

**For all assignments, late submissions will have significant points deducted.**

SCHEDULE	TEXTS
Introduction (January 7-11)	Reynaldo Ileto, "Rizal and the Underside of Philippine History"
Founding Texts (January 14-18)	Antonio Pigafetta, from <i>The First Voyage Around the World</i> Joseph Conrad, from <i>Heart of Darkness</i>
Establishing Empire (January 23-25)	Jan. 20> MLK HOLIDAY Amy Kaplan, "Left Alone with America"
Marshalling Power (Jan. 28-Feb. 1)	Vicente Rafael, "Patronage, Pornography, and Youth" Robin Hemley, from <i>Invented Eden</i>
Recording Empire (February 4-8)	Eleanor Coppola, from <i>Notes</i> Eleanor Coppola, <i>Hearts of Darkness: A Filmmaker's Apocalypse</i>
Dreaming of History (February 11-15)	<b>Feb. 11&gt; MIDTERM PAPER DUE</b> Jessica Hagedorn, <i>Dream Jungle</i>
...Still Dreaming... (February 20-22)	Feb. 18> PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY Hagedorn, <i>Dream Jungle</i>
Writing to Empire (February 25-29)	Noel Alunit, <i>Letters to Montgomery Clift</i> <b>Feb. 29&gt; HISTORY PAPER DUE</b>
Diverse Diasporas (March 3-7)	Caroline Hau, "Alien Nation" R. Zamora Linmark, <i>Rolling the R's</i>
Laughing with and for Empire (March 10-14)	Kidlat Tahimik, <i>The Perfumed Nightmare</i>
	<b>FINAL EXAM / FINAL PAPER DUE</b>

## **ETHNIC STUDIES MAJOR OR MINOR**

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, Undergraduate Advisor for the Department of Ethnic Studies, at (858) 534-3277 or [yescamilla@ucsd.edu](mailto:yescamilla@ucsd.edu).

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

1. The University of California, in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or age in any of its policies, procedures, or practices; nor does the university discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

2. Students are expected to complete the course in compliance with the instructor's standards. No student shall engage in any activity that involves attempting to receive a grade by means other than honest effort; for example:

>No student shall knowingly procure, provide, or accept any unauthorized material that contains questions or answers to any examination or assignment to be given at a subsequent time.

>No student shall complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.

>No student shall knowingly allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, for himself or herself by another person.

>No student shall plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his or her own work.

>No student shall employ aids excluded by the instructor in undertaking course work or in completing any exam or assignment.

>No student shall alter graded class assignments or examinations and then resubmit them for regrading.

>No student shall submit substantially the same material in more than one course without prior authorization.

For more information, please consult the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship.