

Critical Race Theory: ANT 503A

Class Tuesday 9:20-12:00

Office Hours on WASS

Prof. Carolyn Rouse

DESCRIPTION: What theoretical approaches are available to ethnographers for making sense of race and inequality? This class puts Critical Race Theory in conversation with foundational anthropological theories of race and ethnicity. Students in this course will explore the usefulness of contemporary legal theory, structuralism, pragmatism, Marxian analysis, and interpretivism for understanding and writing about race and difference.

GRADING

Precis: Students are asked to write weekly (1,500 word max) précis on the readings. The précis should not be a book report but rather an analysis of something that strikes you as you read across texts. Be daring.

Final Paper: Students will also be graded on a final paper (maximum 4,000 words including footnotes). Please meet with the professor during office hours for paper topic approval. Paper due Dean's Date.

Precis: 35%

Paper: 35%

Participation and Attendance: 30%

BOOKS

Achille Mbembe, 2017. *Critique of Black Reason*. Translation by Laurent Dubois. Durham: Duke University Press.

Patricia J. Williams, 1997. *The Rooster's Egg: On the Persistence of Prejudice*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Critical Race Theory, third addition (optional), editors Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic, New York University Press, 2017. The articles in week 1 are abbreviated in this volume. The links below are to the unabbreviated versions of these articles.)

READINGS:

Week 1: *What is Critical Race Theory?*

Critical Race Theory, third addition, editors Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic, New York University Press, 2017. (Optional Purchase)

- Kimberle Crenshaw, "Mapping the margins: Intersectionality, identity, politics, and violence against women of color," *Stanford Law Review*, 1991.
https://www.jstor.org/stable/1229039?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents
- Neil Gotanda, 1991. "A Critique of 'Our Constitution is Color-Blind,'" *Stanford Law Review*, 44(1): 1-68.
https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/1228940.pdf?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents
- Richard Delgado, 1982. "Words that Wound: A Tort Action for Racial Insults, Epithets, and Name Calling," 17 *Harvard. C.R.-C.L. L. Rev.* 133.
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2000918
- Cheryl I. Harris, 1993. "Whiteness as Property," *Harvard Law Review* 106(8): 1709-1791)
https://sph.umd.edu/sites/default/files/files/Harris_Whiteness%20as%20Property_106HarvLRev-1.pdf
- Derrick A. Bell Jr. 1992. "Racial Realism," *Connecticut Law Review*, 24(2): 363-379. <http://tomwilk.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Bell-Racial-Realism.pdf>
- Alan David Freeman, 1978. "Legitimizing Racial Discrimination Through Antidiscrimination Law: A Critical Review of Supreme Court Doctrine." *Minnesota Law Review* 62:1049-1119.
http://heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/mnlr62&div=40&q_s ent=1&casa_token=&collection=journals
- Derrick A. Bell, Jr., 1995. "Intellectual Precursors: Early Criticism of Conventional Civil Rights Discourse," pp. 5-19 and "Brown v. Board of Education and the Interest Convergence Dilemma," pp. 20-29. In *Critical Race Theory: The Key Writings that Formed the Movement*.
- Linda Greene, 1995. "Race in the Twenty-First Century: Equality Through Law?" In *Critical Race Theory: The Key Writings that Formed the Movement*. Pp. 292-302.

Week 2: *Challenge to Critical Race Theory in light of earlier debates among African Americans*

- Richard A. Posner, 1995. "Nuance, Narrative, and Empathy in Critical Race Theory." *Overcoming Law*. Pp. 368-84. **E-Reserve**
- Stephen L. Carter, 1991. "Academic Tenure and "White Male" Standards: Some Lessons from the Patent Law. Faculty Scholarship Series Paper 2250,
http://digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3241&context=fss_papers
- Daniel Subotnik, 1998. "What's Wrong with Critical Race Theory: Reopening the Case for Middle Class Values." In *Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy*. 7(3):681-756.
<https://scholarship.law.cornell.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1238&context=cjlp>
- Douglas E. Litowitz, 1997. "Some Critical Thoughts on Critical Race Theory, 72 *Notre Dame L. Rev.* 503.
<https://scholarship.law.nd.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1844&context=ndlr>

Debates among African Americans:

Strategies for Change

Separation vs. Integration

Strategies for Change

Excerpts from: *Call and Response: Key Debates in African American Studies*, edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Jennifer Burton. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. Pp. 203-217.

- Ida B. Wells, 1892. "Southern Horrors: Lynch Law in All Its Phases."
- Booker T. Washington, 1895. "The Atlanta Exposition Address."
- Henry McNeal Turner, 1895. "Response to the Atlanta Exposition Address."
- W. E. B. Du Bois, 1903. "Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others."

Separation vs. Integration

Excerpts from: *Call and Response: Key Debates in African American Studies*, edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Jennifer Burton. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. Pp. 259-278.

- W.E.B. Du Bois, 1921. "What Du Bois Thinks of Marcus Garvey."
- Marcus Garvey, 1921. "What Garvey Thinks of Du Bois."
- Marcus Garvey, 1924, "W.E.B. Du Bois as a Hater of Dark People."
- Marcus Garvey, 1924. "Marcus Garvey: A Lunatic or a Traitor?"
- Zora Neal Hurston, 1925. "The Emperor Effaces Himself."

- Wilfred Adolphus Domingo, 1919. "What Are We, Negroes or Colored People?"

Week 3: Anthropology's contributions to Critical Race Theory

Race is not biological

Franz Boas, 1910. *Race, Language, and Culture*, Pp. 76-85.

Melville J. Herskovits, 1941. On West African Influences. *Call and Response: Key Debates in African American Studies*, edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Jennifer Burton. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Pp. 379-385.

Race, political affect, and subjectivity

Alain Locke, 1928. "Art or Propaganda?" *Call and Response: Key Debates in African American Studies*, edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Jennifer Burton. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Pp. 333-335.

Culture of poverty

Charles Valentine, 1968. *Culture of Poverty: Critique and Counter-Proposals*, pp. 18-77, 128-78.

Week 4: Anthropology's contributions to Critical Race Theory (Continued)

Race and ethnicity

John Langston Gwaltney, 1980. *Drylongso: A Self-Portrait of Black America*, entire book.

Brackette Williams, 1989. "A Class Act: Anthropology and the Race to Nation Across Ethnic Terrain." *The Annual Review of Anthropology*, pp. 401-444.

<https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.an.18.100189.002153?journalCode=anthro>

Bayo Holsey, 2013. "Black Atlantic Visions: History, Race, and Transnationalism in Ghana." *Cultural Anthropology*, 28(3): 504-518.

<https://anthrosource.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/cuan.12017>

Race and the new materialism

Jane Adams and D. Gorton, "Confederate Lane: Class, race and ethnicity in the Mississippi Delta," In *American Ethnologist*, 2008, 33(2)288-309.

Elgin Klugh, "African Americans as Placemakers in the Tamarack Triangle Community of Silver Spring, Maryland." *City and Society*, 22(2): 183-206.

<https://anthrosource.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/j.1548-744X.2010.01038.x>

Week 5: Structuralism and pragmatism as theoretical interventions

Excerpts from: *Call and Response: Key Debates in African American Studies*, edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Jennifer Burton. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. Pp. 304-310.

W.E.B. Du Bois, 1921. "The Negro and Radical Thought."

Elise Johnson McDonald, 1925. "The Double Task: The Struggle of Women for Sex and Race Emancipation."

Charles Pierce, "Lessons from the History of Science."

<https://www.textlog.de/4223.html>

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Claude Levi-Strauss, 1953. "Race and History," UNESCO, Pp. 5-49.

<https://archive.org/details/racehistory00levi>

Hannah Arendt, "Reflections on Little Rock," <http://bethsholomsof.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Reflections-on-Little-Rock.pdf>

Week 6: *Epistemic Decolonization and Critical Race Theory*

Achille Mbembe, 2017. *Critique of Black Reason*. Translation by Laurent Dubois. Durham: Duke University Press.

Patricia J. Williams, 1997. *The Rooster's Egg: On the Persistence of Prejudice*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
