

**EALC 499 Special Topics:
Theorizing Race in the Asia-Pacific**
Spring Semester, 2012
Mondays, 2-4:50
Location TBA



Professor: Brian Bernards (Ph.D.), bernards@usc.edu
Office Hours: Thursdays, 10-12 or by appointment,
Taper 356P
Course Website: Log on using your USC account at
www.blackboard.usc.edu

Course Description:

What is race? What constitutes racism? How has “Asia” as place influenced or shaped Western understandings of race, and how have the nations and societies of the Asia-Pacific region interpreted, modified, or internalized Western ideas about race?

This upper-division/graduate seminar examines critical scholarship, employing a range of methodologies, on constructions and formulations of ethnicity and race in Asian and Pacific Island societies, with particular attention to how they intersect with, diverge from, reinforce, adapt, or attempt to transcend Western models. We explore how nation-states attempt to incorporate and assimilate multiethnic and multilingual populations into their projection of a common or unified national identity and discourse of nationalism. Models that we examine include (post)socialist multiculturalism (China), the postcolonial legacies of Western and Japanese empires in Korea, Taiwan, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands, and the legacies of Chinese “diaspora” in Southeast Asia and the U.S. Within these models, we will examine state discourses on indigeneity and immigration, as well as the concerns and responses of indigenous and migrant communities to these discourses. Course readings will primarily include a broad sampling of interdisciplinary scholarship from cultural and literary studies to history and sociology. We will also read one literary text and watch one film to assess the potential application of various theories to “primary sources.” All readings are in English.

Required Text (available at USC Pertusati Bookstore):

- Vyvayne Loh, *Breaking the Tongue* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2004)
- All other selections are available in PDF format from the course website. You are encouraged to either purchase or check out from the library one of the scholarly sources listed below for writing your book review.

Student Requirements & Grading:

- **Preparation & Participation (15%).** A seminar is a unique learning environment defined largely by the active participation of students. The level of engagement, quality of questions, and amount of enthusiasm you bring will directly impact everyone’s success and enjoyment of the course. I will do my part to create an environment that fosters the open and inclusive sharing of ideas, thoughts, and questions. As a member of the seminar, you must come to each class session on time and ready to demonstrate that you have

critically read the required weekly text(s). Students are expected to contribute thoughtful comments and raise critical questions to the seminar. *You need to complete the specified reading prior to attending each session.* See course schedule below for details.

- **Seminar Paper (30%).** For your seminar paper, you have two options: A) Compare constructions of race and ethnicity in two different Asia-Pacific societies based on the related readings from class, incorporating at least 6 sources; or B) Incorporate course readings to address your individual area of research interest and your own selection of primary sources. For example, if your research is on modern Korean self-perceptions through the influence of popular culture, your essay might examine this influence in terms of how popular culture internalizes, rejects, or selectively adapts colonial or neo-colonial attitudes about race. If your research is on the regional disparities of economic modernization and globalization in China, your paper might analyze how Chinese state policies on the nation's multiculturalism and the ethnic distribution of the population intersect with these regional disparities. For Option B, your paper should incorporate 1-3 primary sources of your own choosing and 3-4 secondary sources from course readings. For both options, the paper should be 12-15 pages in length, double-spaced in Times New Roman font, and it should use MLA citation format. See schedule below for due date.
- **Two (2) Panel Presentations (10% each – 20 % total).** Students are responsible for leading two reading discussion seminars. You will sign up for two days on the first day of class. As panelists, your responsibility is to prepare some questions for discussion and present your detailed preliminary thoughts on the readings. For at least one of the presentations, try to choose a day that includes readings most directly relevant to your area of research interest.
- **Scholarly Book Review (15%).** In this class, we will largely read short selections from various academic works. Of these works, you should choose one and read the whole book (a list of choices follows the course schedule below). It can be an edited volume featuring the contributions of several authors or a solely-authored book. You will then write a 3-5 page book review. Please look at sample book reviews in journals from your discipline, such as *The Journal of Asian Studies*, for style and formatting guidelines. See schedule below for due date.
- **Five (5) Discussion Board Posts (4% each – 20% total).** At least five times during the semester, prior to our seminar discussion of a particular reading or set of readings, students should post initial responses of at least 400 words to the discussion board on Blackboard. These responses will help get our ideas flowing before the discussion. The form of the post is flexible: students may raise questions about specific aspects of the readings, relate the current week's readings to previous ones, or respond to ideas raised by classmates in other posts on the forum. *Students may post at any time during the semester and on any text as long as we have not yet discussed that reading or film in class. Posts must be made by 12pm (noon) on the day the reading will be discussed in class.* See course schedule below for details.

Student Resources:

- **Academic Honesty.** All academic work for this course must meet USC's standards for academic honesty. Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work (see http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct/grad_ai.htm). Students turning in any written assignment or exam

that is not entirely of his or her own creation will be reported to the Office of the Dean. For tips on how to avoid plagiarism, see http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct/ug_plag.htm. On how to cite sources and construct a Works Cited page using the proper format, see http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch08_o.html.

- **The Writing Center.** Taper 321: <http://dornsife.usc.edu/writingcenter/>
- **Students with Disabilities.** Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs each semester. For information on the registering procedure, visit http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html

Course Schedule

Monday, January 9

Introduction to Race Theory in Comparative Context

Reading Discussion:

- Michael Banton, “The Idiom of Race,” in *Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader*, 2nd ed., ed. Les Back and John Solomos, (London: Routledge, 2011), 55-67.
- Tvetan Todorov, “Race and Racism,” trans. Catherine Porter, in *Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader*, 69-74.

Please sign up for two panel presentations.

Monday, January 23

“Asia” as the West’s Race Laboratory: The East Indies and Indochine

Reading Discussion:

- Ann Laura Stoler, “Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Gender and Morality in the Making of Race,” in *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010), 41-78.
- Ann Stoler, “Sexual Affronts and Racial Frontiers: European Identities and the Cultural Politics of Exclusion in Colonial Southeast Asia,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 34.3 (1992): 514-51.

Monday, January 30

Nations and Nationalism, Race and Racism: The Early 20th Century

Reading Discussion:

- Tessa Morris-Suzuki, “Race,” in *Re-inventing Japan: Time, Space, Nation* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1998), 79-109.
- John Lie, “Genealogies of Japanese Identity and Monoethnic Ideology,” in *Multiethnic Japan* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004), 111-41.
- Kai-wing Chow, “Narrating Nation, Race, and National Culture: Imagining the Hanzu Identity in Modern China,” in *Constructing Nationhood in Modern East Asia*, ed. Kai-wing Chow, Kevin M. Doak, and Poshek Fu (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2001), 47-83.
- Rebecca E. Karl, “Promoting the Ethnos: The Boer War and Discourses of the People,” in *Staging the World: Chinese Nationalism at the Turn of the Twentieth Century* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2002), 83-115.

Monday, February 6

The Japanese Colonial Empire: Conscripting “Asian” Subjects (Taiwan Focus)

Reading Discussion:

- Leo Ching, “Between Assimilation and Imperialization: From Colonial Projects to Imperial Subjects,” in *Becoming Japanese: Colonial Taiwan and the Politics of Identity Formation* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001), 89-132.
- Faye Yuan Kleeman, “Taming the Barbaric,” in *Under an Imperial Sun: Japanese Colonial Literature of Taiwan and the South* (Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2003), 17-41.
- Faye Yuan Kleeman, “Language Policy and Cultural Identity,” in *Under an Imperial Sun: Japanese Colonial Literature of Taiwan and the South*, 119-159.

Monday, February 13

The Japanese Colonial Empire: Conscripting “Asian” Subjects (Korea Focus)

Reading Discussion:

- E. Taylor Atkins, “Ethnography as Self-Reflection: Japanese Anthropology in Colonial Korea,” in *Primitive Selves: Koreana in the Japanese Colonial Gaze, 1910-1945* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010), 52-101.
- E. Taylor Atkins, “Epilogue: Postcolonial Valorizations,” in *Primitive Selves: Koreana in the Japanese Colonial Gaze, 1910-1945*, 187-199.
- Travis Workman, “Locating Translation: On the Question of Japanophone Literature,” *PMLA* 126.3 (May 2011): 701-708.
- Christopher Hanscom, “Degrees of Difference: Rethinking the Transnational Turn in Korean Literary Studies,” *PMLA* 126.3 (May 2011): 651-657.

Monday, February 27

(Post)socialist Multiculturalism: China’s “Nationalities” Paradigm

Reading Discussion

- Thomas S. Mullaney, “Identity Crisis in Postimperial China,” in *Coming to Terms with the Nation: Ethnic Classification in Modern China* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010), 18-41.
- Thomas S. Mullaney, “Plausible Communities,” in *Coming to Terms with the Nation: Ethnic Classification in Modern China*, 69-91.
- Susan K. McCarthy, “Dharma and Development among the Xishuangbanna Dai,” in *Communist Multiculturalism: Ethnic Revival in Southwest China* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2009), 70-99.
- Susan K. McCarthy, “Authenticity, Identity, and Tradition among the Hui,” in *Communist Multiculturalism: Ethnic Revival in Southwest China*, 130-166.

Monday, March 5

(Post)colonial Multiculturalism: Malaysia and Singapore (History Focus)

Reading Discussion:

- Charles Hirschman, “The Making of Race in Colonial Malaya: Political Economy and Racial Ideology,” *Sociological Forum* 1.2 (1986): 330-61.

- Nirmala PuruShotam, “‘Nation’ and ‘Race’: Realms of Problematic Possibilities for Language,” in *Negotiating Multiculturalism: Disciplining Difference in Singapore* (Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, 2000), 1-29.
- Nirmala PuruShotam, “Second Language: Official Bilingualism Brought Home,” in *Negotiating Multiculturalism: Disciplining Difference in Singapore*, 174-206.
- Cherian George, “Where East Meets West, and West Beats East,” in *Singapore, the Air-conditioned Nation: Essays on the Politics of Comfort and Control, 1990-2000* (Singapore: Landmark Books, 2000), 170-175.

Monday, March 19

(Post)colonial Multiculturalism: Singapore (Literature Focus)

Reading Discussion:

- Vyvyanne Loh, *Breaking the Tongue* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2004), ISBN-13: 978-0393326543

Monday, March 26

(Post)colonial Multiculturalism: Malaysia (Cinema Focus)

Film Screening & Discussion:

- *Sepet* (Dir. Yasmin Ahmad, 2004)

Book reviews due at the beginning of class.

Monday, April 2

Indigenous Geopolitics: The Southeast Asian Highlands

Reading Discussion:

- Benedict Anderson, “Majorities and Minorities,” in *The Spectre of Comparisons: Nationalism, Southeast Asia and the World* (London: Verso, 1998), 318-332.
- Thongchai Winichakul, “The Others Within: Travel and Ethno-Spatial Differentiation of Siamese Subjects, 1885-1910,” in *Civility and Savagery: Social Identity in Tai States*, ed. Andrew Turton (Richmond, Surrey: Curzon, 2000), 38-62.
- Patricia Pelley, “‘Barbarians’ and ‘Younger Brothers’: The Remaking of Race in Postcolonial Vietnam,” *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 29.2 (1998): 374-391.

Monday, April 9

The Transpacific Spectrum: Rim & Basin

Reading Discussion:

- Hau‘ofa, Epeli, “Our Sea of Islands,” in *A New Oceania: Rediscovering Our Sea of Islands*, ed. Eric Waddell, Vijay Naidu, and Epeli Hau‘ofa (Suva, Fiji: School of Social and Economic Development, University of the South Pacific / Beake House, 1993), 2-17.
- Elizabeth M. DeLoughrey, “Vessels of the Pacific: An Ocean in the Blood,” in *Routes and Roots: Navigating Caribbean and Pacific Island Literatures* (Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2007), 96-157.

Monday, April 16

The Transpacific Spectrum: Japan, the U.S., and Hapa Culture

Guest Speaker:

- Duncan Williams, Associate Professor of Religion and Director of the USC School of Religion

Reading Discussion:

- John Lie, “The Contemporary Discourse of Japaneseness,” in *Multiethnic Japan*, 27-52.
- John Lie, “Classify and Signify,” in *Multiethnic Japan*, 142-169.

Monday, April 23

Re-conceptualizing American Studies: New Pacific Paradigms

Reading Discussion:

- Shu-mei Shih, “The Concept of the Sinophone,” *PMLA* 126.3 (May 2011): 709-718.
- Sau-ling Wong, “The Yellow and the Black: Race and Diasporic Identity in Sinophone Chinese American Literature,” in *Diasporic Histories: Cultural Archives of Chinese Transnationalism*, ed. Andrea Riemenschmitter and Deborah L. Madsen (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2009), 77-92.

Arrange time to meet to present and submit papers.

Finals Week

Paper presentations: please prepare to read a portion of your final papers.

Final papers due.

List of Books for Book Reviews (choose one)

1. Anderson, Benedict, *The Spectre of Comparisons: Nationalism, Southeast Asia and the World* (London: Verso, 1998)
2. Atkins, E. Taylor, *Primitive Selves: Koreana in the Japanese Colonial Gaze, 1910-1945* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010)
3. Back, Les and John Solomos (eds.), *Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader*, 2nd ed. (London: Routledge, 2011)
4. Ching, Leo, *Becoming Japanese: Colonial Taiwan and the Politics of Identity Formation* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001)
5. Chow, Kai-wing, Kevin M. Doak, and Poshek Fu (eds.), *Constructing Nationhood in Modern East Asia* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2001)
6. DeLoughrey, Elizabeth M., *Routes and Roots: Navigating Caribbean and Pacific Island Literatures* (Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2007)
7. George, Cherian, *Singapore, the Air-conditioned Nation: Essays on the Politics of Comfort and Control, 1990-2000* (Singapore: Landmark Books, 2000)
8. Karl, Rebecca E., *Staging the World: Chinese Nationalism at the Turn of the Twentieth Century* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2002)

9. Kleeman, Faye Yuan, *Under an Imperial Sun: Japanese Colonial Literature of Taiwan and the South* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2003)
10. Lie, John, *Multiethnic Japan* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004)
11. McCarthy, Susan K., *Communist Multiculturalism: Ethnic Revival in Southwest China* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2009)
12. Morris-Suzuki, Tessa, *Re-inventing Japan: Time, Space, Nation* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1998)
13. Mullaney, Thomas S., *Coming to Terms with the Nation: Ethnic Classification in Modern China* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010)
14. PuruShotam, Nirmala Sreeram, *Negotiating Multiculturalism: Disciplining Difference in Singapore* (Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, 2000)
15. Riemenschneider, Andrea and Deborah L. Madsen (eds.), *Diasporic Histories: Cultural Archives of Chinese Transnationalism* (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2009)
16. Stoler, Ann Laura, *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010)
17. Turton, Andrew (ed.), *Civility and Savagery: Social Identity in Tai States* (Richmond, Surrey: Curzon, 2000)