

COLT – 620 Colonial Affect

This course examines the recent interdisciplinary ‘turn’ to affect within contemporary studies of theory and criticism, and its bearing on questions of race and colonialism. Examining a diverse range of both theoretical and fictive engagements with affect and emotion, this course will begin by interrogating the nature of this recent ‘turn’ and its emergence within the contemporary moment. Secondly, we will ask, how has this recent interest in affect expanded, challenged, or shifted our inquiries into questions of race and empire?

Our discussions of the affective turn will necessarily involve an interrogation of its relationship to genealogies of queer and feminist epistemologies, as well as critical race and postcolonial interventions. How can we study affect historically? How are affects racialized or gendered, colonized or decolonized? Topics we will investigate include the role of affect in technologies of discipline and control, the production of modern racial subjects and gendered citizen subjects, as well as public feelings and memories. Readings will include works by Raymond Williams, Eve Sedgwick, Sianne Ngai, Lauren Berlant, Jose Munoz, Saidiya Hartman, Frantz Fanon, Karl Marx, Sarah Ahmed, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, The Subaltern Studies Collective, Virginia Woolf, Richard Wright, Sigmund Freud, Hanna Arendt, and Fredric Jameson. Finally, as literary scholars, we will ask, how and in what ways is the field of affect studies generative of new academic genres, reading practices, and/or modalities of intellectual discourse with which we may engage modern legacies of colonialism?

Required Texts:

Frantz Fanon *Black Skin, White Masks*

Saidiya Hartman *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth Century America*

Lisa Lowe *The Intimacy of Four Continents*

Sarah Ahmed *Queer Phenomenology: Orientation, Objects, Others*

Sianne Ngai *Ugly Feelings*

Eric Hayot: *The Hypothetical Mandarin: Sympathy, Modernity, and Chinese Pain*

Virginia Woolf: *Mrs. Dalloway*