

American Studies 502: Readings in American Studies II

U.S. Imperialism at Home and Abroad

Fall Semester 2006

Wednesdays, 3:00-6:00pm

Room: Todd 201

(updated 9/05/06)

Course Description:

This graduate course is the second part of “Readings in American Studies” sequence. Unlike the first course that examined the early American period, this course examines major trends in American Studies from 1865 to the present. One of these trends is “U.S. Imperialism” and “Empire” that has become a major topic of study in American Studies. My aim is to use a historical, multidisciplinary, comparative, and transnational approach toward the study of U.S. imperialism. First we will begin by reading and discussing key essays and presidential addresses that explore old issues and new directions in the field of American Studies. Then we will discuss readings from two key anthologies that examine cultures of U.S. imperialism and the intimacies of empire. While most studies focus on U.S. intervention in foreign countries, we will also focus on the domestic implications of U.S. imperialism particularly in the American southwest and U.S.-Mexico border. Then we will examine relationship between U.S. Imperialism and Immigration Policy and its longstanding impact on Asian and Latin American immigrants. Because of the global power of the U.S. media it is important that we focus on how films, news reports, and popular culture have shaped U.S. foreign policy toward the Middle East. The remaining weeks will be spent on examining the various forms of resistance to U.S. imperialism. First we will look at the global dimensions of the Black Freedom struggle from the New Deal era to the 1970s. Lastly, we will examine the artistic, musical, and cultural expressions of social movements from the civil rights era to the anti-globalization movement. Throughout the semester we will explore exciting new works in American Studies, as well as ethnic studies, gender studies, media studies, cultural studies, transnational and postcolonial studies that seek to contest and de-center “American” nationalism and U.S. imperialism at home and around the world.

Course Readings

- 1) Amy Kaplan and Donald Pease, eds., Cultures of United States Imperialism (Duke University Press, 1993)
- 2) Ann Stoler, ed. Haunted by Empire: Geographies of Intimacy in North American History (Duke University Press, 2006)
- 3) Pablo Mitchell, Coyote Nation : Sexuality, Race, and Conquest in Modernizing New Mexico, 1880-1920 (University Of Chicago Press, 2005)

- 4) Mae Ngai, Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America (Princeton, University Press, 2004)
- 5) Ji-Yeon Yuh, Beyond the Shadow of Camptown: Korean Military Brides in American (New York University Press, 2002).
- 6) Melani McAlister, Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East, 1945-2000 (University of California Press, 2001)
- 7) Nikhil Pal Singh, Black is a Country: Race and the Unfinished Struggle for Democracy (Harvard University Press, 2004)
- 8) T. V. Reed, The Art of Protest: Culture and Activism from the Civil Rights Movement to the Streets of Seattle (University of Minnesota Press, 2005)

Reading Schedule:

PART 1: Old and New Directions in American Studies

Wednesday, August 23, 2006 (Download PDF file)

- 1) Allen F. Davis, "The Politics of American Studies" American Quarterly 42 (1990), 3-21. (Download PDF file)
- 2) Janice Radway, "What's in a Name?" (ASA Presidential Address, 1998) American Quarterly (Download Word File) (Download Word file)
- 3) 1) Amy Kaplan, "Left Along with America: The Absence of Empire in the Study of American Culture" in Cultures of United States Imperialism (Duke University Press, 1993)
- 4) Amy Kaplan, "Violent Belongings and the Question of Empire Today" American Quarterly (ASA Presidential Address, 2003) (Download PDF file)

PART 2: U. S. Imperialism and Nation-building

Wednesday, August 30, 2006

Video: "Savage Acts" (25 minutes)

- 1) Eric Cheyfitz, "Savage Law: The Plot Against American Indians in Johnson and Graham's Lessee v. M'Intosh and the Pioneers" in Cultures of United States Imperialism (Duke University Press, 1993)
- 2) Vicente Rafael, "White Love: Surveillance and Nationalist Resistance in the U.S. Colonization of the Philippines" in Cultures of United States Imperialism (Duke University Press, 1993)
- 3) Amy Kaplan, "Black and Blue on San Juan Hill" in Cultures of United States Imperialism (Duke University Press, 1993)

Wednesday, September 6, 2006: U. S. Imperialism and Nation-building

- 1) Adria Imada, "Hawaiians on Tour: Hula Circuits through the American Empire" American Quarterly, 56 (March 2004) (PDF File)

2) Christina D. Burnett and Burke Marshall, "Between the Foreign and the Domestic: The Doctrine of Territorial Incorporation, Invented and Reinvented" and Juan Perea, "Fulfilling Manifest Destiny: Conquest, Race and the Insular Cases" in Christina D. Burnett and Burke Marshall, eds. Foreign in a Domestic Sense: Puerto Rico, American Expansion and the Constitution (Duke University Press, 2001) (Copy available in CES Dept.)

3) José David Saldívar, "Américo Paredes and Decolonization" in Cultures of United States Imperialism (Duke University Press, 1993)

Part 3: Intimacies of Empire

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

1) Ann Laura Stoler, "Intimidations of Empire: Predicaments of the Tactile and Unseen" in Ann Laura Stoler, ed. Haunted By Empire (Duke University, 2006)

2) Damon Salesa, "Samoa's Half-Castes and Some Frontiers of Comparison" in Ann Laura Stoler, ed. Haunted By Empire (Duke University, 2006)

3) Paul A. Kramer, "The Darkness that Enters the Home: The Politics of Prostitution during the Philippine-American War" in Ann Laura Stoler, ed. Haunted By Empire (Duke University, 2006)

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

1) Martha Hodes, "Fractions and Fictions in the United States Census of 1890" in Ann Laura Stoler, ed. Haunted By Empire (Duke University, 2006)

2) Laura Briggs, "Making 'America' Families: Transnational Adoption and U.S. Latin American Policy" in Ann Laura Stoler, ed. Haunted By Empire (Duke University, 2006)

3) Alexandra Minna Stern, "An Empire of Texts: Psychometrics and the Paradoxes of Nationalism in the Americas" in Ann Laura Stoler, ed. Haunted By Empire (Duke University, 2006)

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

1) Tiya Miles, "His Kingdom for a Kiss': Indians and Intimacy in the Narrative of John Marrant" in Ann Laura Stoler, ed. Haunted By Empire (Duke University, 2006)

2) Nayan Shah, "Adjudicating Intimacies on U.S. Frontiers" in Ann Laura Stoler, ed. Haunted By Empire (Duke University, 2006)

3) Linda Gordon, "Internal Colonialism and Gender" in Ann Laura Stoler, ed. Haunted By Empire (Duke University, 2006)

PART 4: Domestic Imperialism

Wednesday, October 4, 2006

Pablo Mitchell, Coyote Nation: Sexuality, Race, and Conquest in Modernizing New Mexico, 1880-1920 (University Of Chicago Press, 2005)

PART 5: Imperialism and Immigration

Wednesday, October 11, 2006

Mae Ngai, Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America (Princeton, University Press, 2004)

Wednesday, October 18, 2006

Mae Ngai, Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America (Princeton, University Press, 2004)

PART 6: Imperialism and the Militarization of Women's Bodies

Wednesday, October 25, 2006

Ji-Yeon Yuh, Beyond the Shadow of Camptown: Korean Military Brides in American (New York University Press, 2002)

PART 7: Imperialism and the U.S. Media

Wednesday, November 1, 2006

Melani McAlister, Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East, 1945-2000 (University of California Press, 2001)

Wednesday, November 8, 2006

Melani McAlister, Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East, 1945-2000 (University of California Press, 2001)

PART 7: Resisting Empire and Decolonizing America

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Nikhil Pal Singh, Black is a Country: Race and the Unfinished Struggle for Democracy (Harvard University Press, 2004)

Thanksgiving Break: November 20-24th, 2006

PART 9: Art and Cultures of Resistance

Wednesday, November 29, 2006

T.V. Reed, The Art of Protest: Culture and Activism from the Civil Rights Movement to the Streets of Seattle (University of Minnesota Press, 2005)

BOOK REVIEW DUE

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

T.V. Reed, The Art of Protest: Culture and Activism from the Civil Rights Movement to the Streets of Seattle (University of Minnesota Press, 2005)

Final Examination Week: December 11-15th, 2006

Final Project DUE December 15th, 2006