Critical Race Theory and Praxis
Fall 2011, unique # 31155
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Office Hours: Th 12:30-2p, and by appointment, at GRG 234B

Description
Questioning assumptions of United States liberals and conservatives with respect to racial injustice, critical race theorists have presented alternative perspectives that seek connections between race, gender, class, and sexual orientation. By investigating the facets of white supremacy and its subordination of non-white racialized social groups, critical race theorists present analyses of power differentials, and encourage and participate in collective action that challenge such power differentials.

To expand and contrast the initial perspectives on critical race theory offered in the volume edited by Kimberlé Crenshaw et al., we will discuss whether, how, and why other progressive intellectuals/activists anticipated, elaborated and/or criticized those perspectives. Particular attention will be given to how the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, and class are experienced both within and outside the U.S., and how such experiences and their theorizations challenge hegemonic racial constructions and their consequences.

This course serves as an introduction to questions related to the nature and process of global white supremacy. Readings and debates will focus on the ways in which white supremacy depends and builds on, while often veiling, its patriarchal heteronormative anti-black foundations.

Course structure
The seminar is divided in four interrelated modules:

Module I
Weeks 2-3: United States critical race theory

Module II
Weeks 4-7: Colonialism, slavery, White privilege, and the globalization of (anti-Black) racialism

Module III
Weeks 8-12: Black feminist and queer critiques: intersectionality and structures of antagonism

Module IV
Weeks 13-15: Black politics/aesthetics and the imperative of revolt

Requirements
Seminar Dynamics: Two facilitators will be responsible for initiating and framing the discussion.

One facilitator presents for 10-15 minutes, in a conference format. The second person responsible for the week's readings then proceeds to propose questions. All seminar participants discuss, modify, add to the questions, and agree on a topics agenda for the remainder of the session.

The facilitators are also expected to provide a brief summary of the discussions after the first two hours of the seminar and lead the discussion towards concluding remarks.

Book Review and questions/insights/points for discussion: The facilitator is expected to turn in a review (no more than 5 pages) of the reading for which s/he is responsible to present. Copies of the review should be made for the other participants and brought to the seminar. The same goes for the questions and insights, which should not be more than one page.

Paper: Participants will be expected to write two short critical papers. The papers should be no more than 5 typed pages. They ought to include reflections on 2 authors. The authors you focus on your papers should not be the same about which you wrote your book review(s). It is important that you closely engage with the authors and structure your analysis according to your own methodology and theoretical premises. These are meant to be highly specific, focused theoretical reflection pieces.

Books are available at the PCL Library (2-hour reserve), and at
Resistencia Bookstore
1801 S 1st St # A
Austin, TX 78704-4255
(512) 416-8885

Meeting and reading schedule

Week 1) August 30
Introduction, presentation assignments

Week 2) September 6

Kimberlé Crenshaw et al., editors. *Critical Race Theory: The Key Writings that Formed*

the Movement (New York: The New Press, 1995), pp. xi-xxxii; 1-200.

Week 3) September 13

Crenshaw et al., *Critical Race Theory,* pp. 201-494.

Week 4) September 20

Saidiya V. Hartman, *Scenes of subjection : terror, slavery, and self-making in nineteenth-century America* (New York : Oxford University Press, 1997)

Recommended

C.L.R. James, *The Black Jacobins:Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution***.** 2d ed., rev. (New York, Vintage Books [1963]

Cedric Robinson, *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition* (Chapel Hill and London: The University of North Carolina Press, [1983] 2000).

Andrea Smith, *Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide* (Boston: South End Press, 2005).

Week 5) September 27

Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 2000).
Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks* (New York: Grove Press, 1967).

Recommended

Paul Gilroy, *Against Race* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000).

George Lipsitz, *The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: How White People Profit from Identity Politics* (Philadelphia: Temple U Press, 1998).

Jared Sexton, *Amalgamation Schemes: Antiblackness and the Critique of Multiracialism* (Minnesota, U Minnesota Press, 2008).

Week 6) October 4

Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (New York: Grove Press, 1963)
Howard Winant, *The World is a Ghetto: Race and Democracy since World War II* (New York: Basic Books, 2001).

Recommended

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, *Empire* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University

Press, 2000).
Adrien Katherine Wing, editor, *Global Critical Race Feminism* (New York: New York University Press, 2000)

Week 7) October 11

Achille Mbembe, *On the Postcolony* (Los Angeles: U of California Press, 2001)

Recommended
Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, *A Critique of Postcolonial Reason: Toward a History of the Vanishing Present* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999).

Week 8) October 18

Carole Boyce Davies, *Left of Karl Marx: The Political Life of Black Communist Claudia Jones* (Durham: Duke U Press, 2008)

Recommended
Barbara Ransby, *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision* (Chapell Hill: The U of N. Carolina Press, 2005)
Manning Marable, *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention* (New York: Viking, 2011)
Patricia Hill Collins, *From Black Power to Hip Hop: Racism, Nationalism, and Feminism* (Philadelphia: Temple U Press, 2006)
Katherine Mc Kittrick Demonic Grounds: Black Women And The Cartographies Of Struggle (Minneapolis: U Minnesota Press, 2006)

Week 9) October 25

M. Jacqui Alexander, *Pedagogies of Crossing: meditations on feminism, sexual politics, memory, and the sacred* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2005)

Recommended
Jasbir K. Puar, *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times* (Durham: Duke U Press, 2007).
Joy James, *Resisting State Violence: Radicalism, Gender, and Race in US Culture* (Minneapolis: Minnesota U Press, 1996).
Patricia Hill Collins, *Fighting Words: Black Women and the Search for Justice.* (Minneapolis: U. Minnesota Press, 1998).

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, *Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire* (New York: Penguin, 2005).

Week 10) November 1

Hortense Spillers, *Black, White, and in Color: Essays on American Literature and Culture* (Chicago: U Chicago Press, 2003).

Recommended
Tricia Rose, *Longing to Tell: Black Women's Stories of Sexuality and Intimacy* (New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003).
Audre Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* (Watertown, Mass.: Persephone Press, 1982).
Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider* (Trumansburg, NY : Crossing Press, c1984).
Barbara Smith, *The Truth that Never Hurts: Writings on Race, Gender, and Freedom* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2000).
bell hooks, *Feminism is for Everybody* (Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2000).
June Jordan, *Affirmative Acts* (New York : Anchor Books/Doubleday, 1998).

Week 11) November 8

Frank Wilderson, *Red, White, and Black: Cinema and the structure of U.S. antagonism* (Durham: Duke U Press, 2010).

Recommended
James Baldwin, *Another Country* (New York: Vintage, 1993).
Richard Wright, *Native Son* (New York: HarperPerennial, [1940] 1993).
Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (New York: Vintage, [1947] 1990).
Eldridge Cleaver, *Soul on Ice* (New York: McGraw Hill, 1967).

Week 12) November 15

E. Patrick Johnson and Mae G. Henderson (eds.), *Black Queer Studies: A Critical Anthology* (Durham: Duke U Press, 2005)

Recommended
Roderick Ferguson, *Aberrations in Black: Toward a Queer of Color Critique* (Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press, 2003).
Judith Halberstam, *In a Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subculturel Lives* (New York: New York University Press, 2005)

Chandra Mohanty, *Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity* (Durham: Duke U Press, 2003)
Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment* (London: Routledge, [1990] 1991).
Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (San Francisco: Aunt Lute, 1987).
Sonia Saldívar-Hull, *Feminism on the Border: Chicana Gender Politics and Literature* (Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2000).

Week 13) November 22

Fred Moten, *In the Break: The Aesthetic of the Black Radical Tradition* (Minneapolis: U Minnesota Press, 2003)

Recommended
Chela Sandoval, *Methodology of the Oppressed* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000).

Weeks 14, 15) November 29

Assata Shakur: Assata *An Autobiography* (Westport, Conn. : L. Hill, 1987)
Frank Wilderson, *Incognegro: A Memoir of Exile and Apartheid* (Boston: South End Press, 2008)

Recommended:
Giorgio Agamben, *State of Exception* (Chicago: U Chicago Press, 2005)
George L. Jackson, *Blood in my Eye* (Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1990)
Judith Butler, *Precarious Life: The Power of Mourning and Violence* (London: Verso, 2006)
Incite! Women of Color Against Violence (ed.), *The revolution will not be funded: Beyond the Non-Profit Industrial Complex* (Boston: South End Press, 2007)
Edwidge Danticat, *Brother, I'm dying* (New York: Knopf, 2007)
John Holloway, *Change the World Without Taking Power: The Meaning of Revolution Today* (London: Pluto Press, [2002] 2005)