

SOCS 316 Marginalia: Encounters With Borders and Frontiers

Instructors: Asma Abbas & Ryan Carey

Thursdays, 6:00-8:45 pm, Room #3

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We wish to think in the spaces between disciplines, their borderlands, so as to challenge the framing and disciplining of knowledge within modernity" (borderlands e-journal)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is imagined as an interdisciplinary investigation into the social and cultural politics of borderlands, frontiers, and marginal spaces. The course will challenge, from within the domain of social scientific inquiry, the construction of these "margins" as peripheral to our selves and society. We will inquire into the borders, real and imaginary, that constitute the political, economic, social, and cultural domains of our lives. As scholars of borderlands have noted, the issue of borders—between nations, sexualities, economies, identities, disciplines, and peoples—brings together some of the most pressing issues in the 21st century, issues which drive violence and conflict, as well as cultural creation and solidarity. Borders that mark out profound dilemmas over power and sovereignty under globalization are also fertile spaces of autonomy and resistance. They thus remain central to the question of how we can continue to live together and survive. In addition to regular class meetings, the course will sponsor a series of public lectures by different faculty from across the college as well as invited guests. Together, these will introduce students to the concepts of borderlands as dealt with in their own reading and research. The course is intended to build on and further problematize the concept of cultural encounters identified in the cultural perspective requirement.

Pre-requisites: Sophomore standing and successful completion of a previous CP course.

REQUIREMENTS

Students will be graded based on 1) class participation; 2) **six** weekly critical essays, 2-3 pages long, on the readings, in weeks you will sign up for at the beginning of the semester (2 essays before Winter Break, 2 between the Winter and Spring Breaks, 2 after Spring Break); 3) a final paper investigating the topics of a given week, or combining topics and theories (15-20 pages); 4) a final oral exam.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This course follows the college's attendance policy. Two absences over the course of the semester will result in an F. In addition, failure to turn in your weekly essay at the beginning of class the day it is due counts as an absence in this scheme, and needless to say is an F for the assignment.

THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.

Also, attendance at the weekly public lectures will be mandatory.

COURSE GOALS

First, we hope for the course to build on the work done by students in previous cultural perspectives classes. The course is intended to follow-through on the work presented in their first CP experience. In addition, the class will foster a much needed exchange between students with varied experiences in CP classes.

Second, the format of the class—intensive classroom discussions together with public lectures by various Simon's Rock faculty and invited guests—is intended to bring the Simon's Rock CP experience to the community as a whole.

Third, we believe that a perspective from the borders allows us to appreciate the contingency of the peripheries of our thoughts, beliefs, actions, imaginations, selves, and communities. Ultimately, we hope that a journey into the life at the borders will allow us to better embrace our own limits and boundaries, as thinkers, teachers, students, activists and citizens.

REQUIRED READING

Kumar, Amitava. *Bombay, London, New York*

Wallerstein, Immanuel. *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction*

Ashcroft, Bill, Gareth Griffiths, and Helen Tiffin. *Post-Colonial Studies: The Key Concepts*

Anzaldúa, Gloria. *Borderlands/La Frontera* (selections)

Winterson, Jeanette. *Written on the Body*

Electronic Reserve (readings marked with an asterisk; password abbcarr-316)

READING SCHEDULE

Week 1 (19/1/06): Introduction

Visit POV website (www.pbs.org/pov)

Week 2 (26/1/06): The Lay of the Land

Required:

*Aron, Steve and Jeremy Adelman, "From Borderlands to Borders: Empires, Nation-States, and the Peoples in Between in North American History" *American Historical Review*, 104 (June 1999), 814-841.

*Turner, Frederick Jackson, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History"

*Gould and Findlay. *Population Migration and the New World Order*. (selections)

Suggested:

Donnan and Wilson. *Borders: Frontiers of Identity, Nation and State*

Weaver, John C, "Concepts of Economic Improvement and the Social Construction of Property Rights: Highlights from the English-speaking World"

Lucassen, Jan and Leo Lucassen. "Migration, Migration History, History: Old Paradigms and New Perspectives"

Castles, Stephen and Mark Miller. *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World* (selections)

McNeil, William. "Human Migration: A Historical Overview"

McLaren, John, A.R. Buck, & Nancy E. Wright, eds. *Despotic Dominion: Property Rights in British Settler Societies*

Weaver, John C. *The Great Land Rush and the Making of the Modern World, 1650-1900*

Week 3 (2/2/06): Conceiving Boundaries in Globalisation

*Kumar, Amitava. *Bombay, London, New York*

*Jameson, Frederic. "Third-World Literature in the Era of Multinational Capitalism"

*Appadurai, Arjun. "Disjuncture and Difference in Global Cultural Economy"

http://www.intcul.tohoku.ac.jp/~holden/MediatedSociety/Readings/2003_04/Appadurai.html
Theory, Culture, and Society 7:295-310.

*Miller, et al. *Global Hollywood* (selections)

*Touraine, Alain. "Multi-cultural Society"

*Tambiah, Stanley. "Transnational Movements, Diasporas and Multiple Modernities" (*Daedalus*, Winter 2000)

Suggested

Rogoff, Irit. *Terra Infirma: Geography's Visual Culture* (selections)

Week 4 (9/2/06): Globalisation and State Power**Required****A**

*Sassen, Saskia. "The State and Globalisation"

*Negri, Antonio and Michael Hardt. *Empire* (selections) www.angelfire.com/cantina/negri

*Jessop, Bob, "Reflections on Globalisation and Its (Il)logic(s)," in Olds et al. eds. (1999)

B

*Marx, Gary. "Some Conceptual Issues in the Study of Borders and Surveillance"

*Buchanan and Long. "Contested Global Governance: States, the WTO and Global Civil Society [Executive Summary of report]"

*LeFebvre, *The Production of Space* (selections)

*Wilkin, Peter. "Solidarity in a Global Age: Seattle and Beyond"

Suggested

Lechner, Frank and John Boli, eds. *The Globalisation Reader*

Stiglitz, Joseph. *Globalisation and its Discontents* (selections)

Week 5 (16/2/06): States, Nations, Nation-States**Required**

Wallerstein, Immanuel. *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction*

*Anderson, Benedict. "The Origins of National Consciousness"

*Elshtain, Jean Bethke. "Sovereignty, Identity, and Sacrifice"

*Harley. "Maps, Knowledge, Power"

Visit: <http://clioweb.org/documentary/index.php/archives/visual-interpretation/>

Suggested

Berezin, Mabel and Martin Schain, eds. *Europe without Borders: Remapping Territory, Citizenship and Identity in a Transnational Age* (selections)

Matthew Edney, *Mapping an Empire: The Geographic Construction of British India, 1765-1843*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1997

WINTER BREAK

Week 6 (2/3/06): Wars and Partitions

*Manto, Saadat Hasan. "Toba Tek Singh"

*Butalia, Urvashi. "Blood"

*Gibb, Camilla. "Between Wars" <http://www.enroutemag.com/e/archives/april02/archives05.html>

*O'Dowd, Liam and J. Anderson "Borders, Border Regions and Territoriality: Contradictory Meanings, Changing Significance," *Regional Studies*, 33 (7): 593-604.

Julie Peteet, "Refugees, Resistance and Identity," in Guidry al ed., *Globalization and Social Movements*

http://www.arts.mcgill.ca/mepp/new_prn/research/papers/peteet.htm

Suggested

Romann and Weingrod. *Living Together Separately: Arabs and Jews in Contemporary Jerusalem* (selection)

Menon, Ritu and Kamla Bhasin. *Borders and Boundaries: Women in India's Partition* (selections)

Philips and Wainwright. *The Partition of India* (selections)

Doreen Indra, 'Not a "Room of One's Own". Engendering Forced Migration Knowledge and Practice', in: Idem (ed.), *Engendering Forced Migration. Theory and Practice* (New York and Oxford 1999) 1-22.

Parin Dossa, 'Reconfiguring the Question: "Who is a Refugee?"'. *Coming to Voice, Coming to Power: One Woman's Story*, *Pakistan Journal of Women's Studies: Alam-e-Niswan* vol. 9 No.1 (2002) 27-55.

*_____ "Contested Borders: Globalization and Ethno-national Conflict in Ireland," *Regional Studies*, 33 (7): 681-696.

Week 7 (9/3/06): Colonialism and Post-Colonialism

*Curzon. "Frontiers" (1907)

<http://www-ibru.dur.ac.uk/resources/docs/curzon1.html>

*Ashcroft, Bill, Gareth Griffiths, and Helen Tiffin. *Post-Colonial Studies: The Key Concepts* (selections)

*Spivak, Gayatri. *The Post-Colonial Critic* (selections)

Week 8 (16/3/06) Colonialism and Post-Colonialism (contd.)

*Deloria, Vine *Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto* (selections)

Gilroy, Paul. *Postcolonial Melancholia*

Week 9 (23/3/06) Bounded Identities

*Ackelsberg, Martha. "Identity Politics, Political Identities: Thoughts toward a Multicultural Politics"

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3687/is_199601/ai_n8755850/print

Anzaldua, Gloria. *Borderlands/La Frontera* (selections)

SPRING BREAK

Week 10 (06/4/06): Critiques: Identity and Fluidity (Social Theory Forum Conference: Boston)

A

*Mohanty. Chandra Talpade. "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses"

*Johnson-Odim, Cheryl. "Common Themes, Different Contexts: Third World Women and Feminism"

*Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. "Cartographies of Struggle: Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism"

B

- *Wittig, Monique. "One is Not Born a Woman"
- *Muller, Benjamin. "Borders, Bodies and Biometrics: Towards Identity Management"
- *Tyler, Carole-Anne. "Passing"
- *Wilchins, Riki Anne. "Why Identity Politics Really, Really Sucks"

Suggested

Gutierrez, Dave. *Walls and Mirrors: Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants and the Politics of Ethnicity*

Week 11 (13/4/06): Political Theories of Difference

A

- *Fraser, Nancy. "Culture, Political Economy, and Difference"
- *Fraser, Nancy. "Multiculturalism, Antiessentialism, and Radical Democracy"
- *Connolly, William. "Taylor, Foucault and Otherness"

B

- *Taylor, Charles. *Multiculturalism* (selections)
- *Young, Iris. *Justice and the Politics of Difference* (selections)

Week 12 (20/4/06) The End-Theory and Ethics

A

- *Derrida, Jacques. "A Number of Yes (Nombre de Oui)"
- *Levinas, Emmanuel. "Jacques Derrida: Wholly Otherwise"
- *Gurevitch, Z.D. "The Other Side of Dialogue: On Making the Other Strange and the Experience of Otherness"

B

- *Bachelard, Gaston, "The Dialectics of Outside and Inside"
- *Crenshaw, Kimberle. "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality"
- *Irigaray, Luce. "The Invisible of the Flesh: A reading of 'The Intertwining – The Chiasm'"

Week 13 (27/4/06): Identities & Sexuality

A

- *Gutierrez, Ramon. *When Jesus Came the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846* (selections)
- *Epstein, Steven. "Gay Politics, Ethnic Identity: The Limits of Social Constructionism," *Socialist Review* 43/44 (1987): 9-49. (reprinted in Stein, *Forms of desire* (1992, 1990), 239-93.)

B

- *Katz, Jonathan. "The Invention of Heterosexuality" (selections)
- *Ciecko, Anne. "Transgender, Transgenre, and the Transnational: Sally Potter's *Orlando*"

Week 14 (4/5/06): Identity & Feminism

Winterson, Jeanette. *Written on the Body*

- *Bauman, Zygmunt. "On Being Light and Liquid"