

WCH 240
Topics In U.S. Social and Cultural History

Fall 2006 – U.C. Merced
Wednesday 5:00-7:50

Instructor: Professor Sean Malloy (smalloy@ucmerced.edu)
Office Hours: COB 311, Tuesday 12:30-2:00 and by appointment
Course Website: Available via UCMCROPS

Description

This is a graduate level course intended to introduce students to important topics and literature in the field of U.S. social and cultural history. This is obviously a broad subject area and I have selected the major themes of race and labor to help organize our readings for the semester. We will explore a number of approaches to these topics, reading a mix of classic works and newer studies that employ a variety of methodologies to cover an array of groups and chronological periods. The goal is give you a foundation in the literature covering these topics as well as to stimulate you to think comparatively about how historians approach U.S. social and cultural history. To that end, I have also included a brief unit on sexuality, primarily for the purpose of methodological comparison with our two main themes.

Course Materials

Race in the United States

Larry Levine, *Black Culture, Black Consciousness: Afro-American Folk Thought from Slavery to Freedom*
Robin Kelley, *Race Rebels: Culture, Politics, and the Black Working Class*
Thomas Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit*
David Guterrez, *Walls and Mirrors: Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants, and the Politics of Ethnicity.*
George Sanchez, *Becoming Mexican American*
Gary Okihiro, *Margins and Mainstreams: Asians in American History and Culture.*
George Lipsitz, *The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: How White People Profit from Identity Politics*

Labor

David Roediger, *The Wages of Whiteness: Race and Making of the American Working Class*
David Montgomery, *The Fall of the House of Labor: The Workplace, the State, and American Labor Activism, 1865-1925*
Liz Cohen, *Making A New Deal: Industrial Workers in Chicago, 1919-1939*
Devra Weber, *Dark Sweat, White Gold: California Farm Workers, Cotton, and the New Deal*
George Lipsitz, *Rainbow at Midnight: Labor and Culture in the 1940s*

Sexuality

John D'Emilio and Estelle Freedman, *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America*
George Chuncey, *Gay New York*

Online Readings: Please check under the "Resources" section of the CROPS site to find the readings listed by week in the syllabus below.

Course Requirements

Every student will sign up to lead one class discussion. On the week in which you lead class, you will also turn in a book review of 5-7 pages in which you discuss the assigned works for that week along with at least two books selected from that week's suggested reading list. I will post a sample book review on our CROPS site as an example of the kind of work I am looking for.

The major written work for this course will be a 20-30 page paper (due December 11) in which you examine an historical question within the field of American social and cultural history. You have substantial leeway to choose a topic that fits your interests so long as it falls broadly within one of the course themes (race, labor, sexuality). In preparation for this final paper, you will turn in a prospectus on October 25 in which you briefly outline your suggested topic and provide a bibliography of sources (which may include, but should not be limited to, the assigned class materials).

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

August 30: Introduction

Required Reading:

Introduction. No reading.

September 6: Race and Labor

Required Reading:

Roediger, *The Wages of Whiteness*.

Alice Kessler-Harris, "Social History," Eric Foner, ed., *The New American History*, 2nd ed., 231-255. [CROPS]

Suggested:

Matthew Pratt Guterl, *The Color of Race in America, 1900-1940*.

Grace Elizabeth Hale, *Making Whiteness: The Culture of Segregation in the South, 1890-1940*.

Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race*.

Noel Ignatiev, *How The Irish Became White*.

David Roediger, *Working Toward Whiteness: How America's Immigrants Became*

White.

September 13: The Culture of Slavery

Required reading:

Levine, *Black Culture, Black Consciousness.*

Thomas C. Holt, "African-American History," Foner, ed., *The New American History*, 311-332. [CROPS]

Suggested:

Eugene D. Genovese, *Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World The Slaves Made.*

Deborah Gray White, *Ar'Nt I A Woman?: Female Slaves in the Plantation South.*

John W. Blassingame, *The Slave Community: Plantation Life in the Antebellum South.*

Zora Neale Hurston, *Mules and Men.*

September 20: Cultural Resistance: The African-American Case

Required reading:

Kelley, *Race Rebels*

Suggested:

Kelley, *Yo' Mama's Disfunktional: Fighting the Culture Wars in Urban America.*

Kelley, *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination.*

Tricia Rose, *Black Noise: Rap Music and Black Culture in Contemporary America.*

William Eric Perkins, ed., *Droppin' Science: Critical Essays on Rap Music and Hip Hop Culture.*

Cedric J. Robinson, *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition.*

September 27: The Urban Crucible in Black and White

Required reading:

Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis*

Suggested:

Reynolds Farley et. al., *Detroit Divided.*

Robert O. Self, *American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland.*

Chris Rhomberg, *No There There: Race, Class, and Political Community in Oakland.*

Marilynn S. Johnson, *The Second Gold Rush: Oakland and the East Bay in World War II*

Kenneth T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States*

October 4: Becoming Mexican American

Required Reading:

Sanchez, *Becoming Mexican American*
Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, “The Homeland, Aztlán,” 23-35, “How to Tame a Wild Tongue,” 75-86. [CROPS]

Suggested:

Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera* (entire)
Ana Castillo, *Massacre of the Dreamers: Essays on Xicanisma* (entire)
Ramon Gutierrez, *When Jesus Came the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846*.
Vicki L. Ruiz, *From Out of the Shadows: Mexican Women in 20th Century America*.
Ernesto Chávez, “¡Mi Raza Primero!”: *Nationalism, Identity, and Insurgency in the Chicano Movement in Los Angeles*.
Dionicio Nodín Valdés, *Barrios Norteños: St. Paul and Midwestern Mexican Communities in the 20th Century*.
Sarah Deutsch, *No Separate Refuge: Culture, Class, and Gender on the Anglo-Hispanic Frontier in the American Southwest, 1880-1940*.

October 11: Mexican Americans and the Politics of Ethnicity

Required Reading:

Gutierrez, *Walls and Mirrors*
Ana Castillo, *Massacre of the Dreamers: Essays on Xicanisma*, “The Ancient Roots of Machismo,” 63-84 and “A Countryless Woman,” 21-41. [CROPS]

Suggested:

Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera* (entire)
Ana Castillo, *Massacre of the Dreamers: Essays on Xicanisma* (entire)
Ramon Gutierrez, *When Jesus Came the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846*.
Vicki L. Ruiz, *From Out of the Shadows: Mexican Women in 20th Century America*.
Ernesto Chávez, “¡Mi Raza Primero!”: *Nationalism, Identity, and Insurgency in the Chicano Movement in Los Angeles*.
Dionicio Nodín Valdés, *Barrios Norteños: St. Paul and Midwestern Mexican Communities in the 20th Century*.
Sarah Deutsch, *No Separate Refuge: Culture, Class, and Gender on the Anglo-Hispanic Frontier in the American Southwest, 1880-1940*.

October 18: Asians in America

Required Reading:

Okiihiro, *Margins and Mainstreams*

Suggested:

Ronald Takaki, *Strangers From A Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans*

Frank H. Wu, *Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White*

Jean Yu-Wen Shen Wu, ed., *Asian-American Studies: A Reader*

Jennifer Lee, *Asia-American Youth*.

Min Zhou, ed., *Contemporary Asian America: A Multidisciplinary Reader*

October 25: The Construction of Whiteness

NOTE: Prospectus and bibliography due in class.

Required Reading:

Lipsitz, *The Possessive Investment in Whiteness*

Samuel Huntington, "The Hispanic Challenge," *Foreign Policy*, March/April 2004.

[CROPS]

Suggested:

Richard Dyer, *White*.

Michael Omi, *Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s to the 1990s*.

Ira Katznelson, *When Affirmative Action Was White: An Untold History of Racial Inequality in 20th Century America*.

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, *Racism Without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in the United States*.

Michael K. Brown et. al., *Whitewashing Race: The Myth of a Color-Blind Society*.

November 1: Labor in the 19th Century

Required reading:

Montgomery, *The Fall of the House of Labor*

Leon Fink, "American Labor History," Foner, ed., *The New American History*, 333-352.

[CROPS]

Excerpt from the Introduction of E. P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*. [CROPS]

Suggested:

Sean Wilentz, *Chants Democratic: New York City and the Rise of the American Working Class, 1788-1850*.

Gunther Peck, *Reinventing Free Labor: Padrones and Immigrant Workers in the North*

American West, 1880-1930.

Howell John Harris, *Bloodless Victories: The Rise and Fall of the Open Shop in the Philadelphia Metal Trades, 1890-1940.*

November 8: A New Deal for Chicago's Workers

Required reading:

Cohen, *Making A New Deal*

Suggested:

Robin Kelley, *Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists During the Great Depression*

Vicki L. Ruiz, *Cannery Women, Cannery Lives: Mexican Women, Unionization, and the California Food Processing Industry, 1933-1950.*

Joe William Trotter, *Coal, Class, and Color: Blacks in Southern West Virginia, 1915-1932.*

John Bodnar, *Lives of Their Own: Blacks, Italians, and Poles in Pittsburgh, 1900-1960.*

Staughton Lynd, ed., *We Are All Leaders: The Alternative Unionism of the Early 1930s.*

Rick Halpern, *Down on the Killing Floor: Black and White Workers in Chicago's Packinghouses, 1904-1954.*

November 15: At Work in the Fields

Required Reading:

Weber, *Dark Sweat, White Gold*

Suggested:

Vicki L. Ruiz, *Cannery Women, Cannery Lives: Mexican Women, Unionization, and the California Food Processing Industry, 1933-1950.*

Dionicio Nodín Valdés, *Barrios Norteños: St. Paul and Midwestern Mexican Communities in the 20th Century.*

Robin Kelley, *Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists During the Great Depression*

Cletus Daniels, *Bitter Harvest: A History of California Farmworkers, 1870-1941.*

Dionicio Nodín Valdés, *Al Norte: Agricultural Workers in the Great Lakes Region, 1917-1970.*

Emilio Zamora, *The World of the Mexican Worker in Texas.*

November 22: Labor in World War II and the Cold War

Required Reading:

Lipsitz, *Rainbow at Midnight*

Suggested:

Liz Cohen, *A Consumers Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America.*

Ronald A Filippelli and Mark D. McCullough, *Cold War in the Working Class: The Rise and Decline of the United Electrical Workers*.

Venus Green, *Race on the Line: Gender, Labor, and Technology in the Bell System, 1880-1980*.

November 29: Bringing Sex Into History

Required reading:

D'Emilio and Estelle Freedman, *Intimate Matters*

Estelle Freedman, "The History of the Family and the History of Sexuality," Foner, ed., *The New American History*, 285-310."

Suggested:

Rachel P. Maines, *The Technology of Orgasm: "Hysteria," The Vibrator, and Women's Sexual Satisfaction*.

Richard Godbeer, *Sexual Revolution in Early America*

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*

December 6: Queer Subjects

Required Reading:

Chuncey, *Gay New York*

Suggested:

John D'Emilio, *Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities*.

Lillian Faderman, *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in 20th Century America*.

Lillian Faderman and Stuart Timmons, *Gay L.A.: A History of Sexual Outlaws, Power Politics, and Lipstick Lesbians*.