LLS-4910-850: RACE AND ETHNICITY IN LATIN AMERICA

This course is a semester long discussion on Metizajeor racial/ethnic mixing in Latin America. The premise informing the discussion is that race and ethnicity are social constructions---There are no actual races or ethnicities in the world. And yet, people and institutions function as they were real, which make them powerful weapons for oppression, social injury and rebellion. Most Latin Americans define themselves or are defined as Metizo or mixed blood people. At times, they mean culturally mixed, meaning not totally Western or Indigenous. Other times, they are referring to their attributed racial make up. For this reason, national statistics should be taken with caution because the labeling of citizens is usually done by a census taker who might impose his views unto the individual in order to classify her/him. But the point remains, why does the state needs to classify its citizens according to race and ethnicity? Why do we need to define ourselves and others (sometimes beloved ones) according to race and ethnicity?

Race and ethnicity are powerful coordinates in the network of domination, for both the oppressors and the victims' contestation in the circuits through which power flows. Race and ethnicity are experienced in a different fashion depending on the individual's gender and sexuality. Hence this course

Learning Objectives:

WEEK 7. Oct 14-Oct 17

Mid-Term Critical Essay is due on: Oct 8

WEEK 8. Oct 21-Oct 26

Case Studies:

Miller, Tango in Black and White, Ch.3 Applebaum, Race, Region, and Nation, Ch. 8

WEEK 9. Nov 4-Nov 9 Miller, Showcasing Mixed Race, Ch.4 Applebaum, Racializing Regional Difference, Ch. 9

WEEK 10. Nov 11-Nov 16 Applebaum, Afterword (by Peter Wade)

WEEK 11. Nov 18-Nov 23

Social Movements

Wade (a) Black and Indian Social Movements, Ch.6

Wade (b) Race, Sex and the Politics of identity and Citizenship, Ch. 6

WEEK 12. Nov 29- Dec 7

Globalization

Wade (a): Studying Race and Ethnicity in a Postmodern, and Reflitive World, Ch. 7

Miller: Globalization, Ciberhybridity and fifth world Mestizaje, Epilogue

WEEK 13.

Final Critical Essay is due on Dec.11