

## Race, Labor, and Capitalism in the Americas

History 510:533

Fall 2014

Monday, 5:00-7:30

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Office Hrs: Tuesday, 12:30-2:30, and Mon. Afternoon by Appointment

### Description

The late Stuart Hall once wrote that race is “the modality in which class is lived,” the medium through which class relations are experienced and “fought through.” Using Hall’s insights as a point of departure, this reading intensive course examines the modern history of race, labor, and capitalism in the Americas. The spread of capitalist relations introduced a spectrum of “free” and “unfree” labor between the seventeenth and twentieth centuries. Our readings will focus on how different labor systems—slavery, indentured, wage labor, and guestworker programs—produced, and were produced by, racial knowledge and systems of meaning. Through a series of case studies, students will trace the ways race and class were co-constituted in the Americas and how they evolved with changing modes of capitalist production. Students will be expected to read a book monograph and an article per week, amounting to about 250-300 pages of reading per week.

### Course Requirements

#### I. *Participation and Discussion* (20%)

Class meetings consist of discussions with students debating historical evidence, research methods, and interpretations. Active participation and listening is expected for each session.

#### II. *Critical Response Papers* (40%)

Students will be required to write a 1-2 page response to the readings each week. The paper is due via e-mail prior to class. Late papers will not be accepted.

#### III. *Final Historiographical Essay* (40%)

For the final essay, students will have the opportunity to explore one of the major historiographical issues/questions raised in the class in depth, analyzing and synthesizing several texts of your choosing. (15-20 pages).

### Required Texts

- Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market* (Harvard, 2001)
- Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (Princeton, 2004)
- Thomas Holt, Rebecca Scott, and Fred Cooper, *Beyond Slavery*.
- Cindy Hahamovitch, *No Man’s Land: Jamaican Guestworkers in America and the History of Deportable Labor* (Princeton, 2011).
- Jana Lipman, *Guantanamo: A Working-Class History between Empire and Revolution* (California, 2008).

- Eric Williams, *Slavery and Capitalism* (North Carolina, 1994)
- Seth Rockman, *Wage Labor, Slavery, and Survival in Early Baltimore* (John Hopkins, 2008)
- Alicia Schmidt-Camacho, *Migrant Imaginaries: Latino Cultural Politics in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands* (NYU, 2008)
- Elizabeth Esch and David R. Roediger, *The Production of Difference: Race and the Management of Labor in U.S. History* (Oxford, 2012).
- Jeffrey Gould, *To Die in this Way: Nicaraguan Indians and the Myth of the Mestizaje* (Duke, 1998)

### **Academic Honesty and Plagiarism Policy**

All work submitted should be the student's own. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing or quoting from another source without explicitly citing it. Students need to be careful about distinguishing their own ideas and writings from other sources, whether published or unpublished. Plagiarism is grounds for automatically failing the course. Further details can be here <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/policy-on-academic-integrity>.

### **Changes to Syllabus**

Professor Chang reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus.

### **Course Schedule and Readings**

#### ***Week 1***

**Sept. 8            Course Overview**

#### ***Week 2***

**Sept. 15        Defining the Terms**

- Barbara Fields, "Slavery, Race, and Ideology in the United States of America," *New Left Review* 181 (May/June 1990): 95-118.
- Marcel van der Linden, *Workers of the World: Essays Towards a Global Labor History* (2008). Chapter 2, "Who are the Workers?"
- Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism*, 1-47, and 163-186.
- Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation* (2001): 33-48, 56-63, 65-76.

#### ***Week 3***

**Sept. 22        Slavery and Capitalism**

- Eric Williams, *Slavery and Capitalism* (North Carolina, 1994)
- Rebecca Scott, *Slave Emancipation in Cuba: The Transition to Free Labor*, Introduction.

#### ***Week 4***

**Sept. 29        Making the Slave Market**

- Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market* (Harvard, 2001)
- Stephanie Smallwood, *Saltwater Slavery*, Chapter 3, “The Political Economy of the Slave Ship.”

### **Week 5**

#### **Oct. 6 Wage Labor**

- Seth Rockman, *Wage Labor, Slavery, and Survival in Early Baltimore* (John Hopkins, 2008)
- David Roediger, *Wages of Whiteness*, Chapter 7, “Irish-American Workers and White Racial Formation in the Antebellum United States.”

### **Week 6**

#### **Oct. 13 Indigenous Labor and the Mestizaje**

- Jeffrey Gould, *To Die in this Way: Nicaraguan Indians and the Myth of the Mestizaje* (Duke, 1998), 1-202.
- Greg Grandin, *The Blood of Guatemala*, Chapter 6, “Regenerating the Race.”

### **Week 7**

#### **Oct. 20 Coolies, Indentured, and Contract Labor**

- Gunther Peck, *Reinventing Free Labor*, Intro. and Chapters 1 & 2
- Moon-Ho Jung, “Outlawing Coolies: Race, Nation, and Empire in the Age of Emancipation,” 57:3 (Sept. 2005): 677-701.
- Lisa Yun, *The Coolie Speaks*, 1-71.

### **Week 8**

#### **Oct. 27 Emancipation and Free Labor**

- Thomas Holt, Rebecca Scott, and Fred Cooper, *Beyond Slavery*.
- Amy Dru Stanley, "Conjugal Bonds and Wage Labor: Rights of Contract in the Age of Emancipation" *Journal of American History* 75 (September 1988): 471-500.

### **Week 9**

#### **Nov. 3 Managing Labor and Empire**

- Elisabeth Esch and David Roediger, *The Production of Difference: Race and the Management of Labor in U.S. History* (Oxford, 2012)
- Kornel Chang, “Circulating Race and Empire: Transnational Labor Activism and the Politics of Anti-Asian Agitation in the Anglo-American Pacific World, 1880-1910,” *Journal of American History* 96:3 (Dec. 2009): 678-701

### **Week 10**

**Nov. 10**                      **Illegal Immigration**

- Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (Princeton, 2004), 1-166.
- Aristide Zolberg, “The Great Wall against China: Response to the First Immigration Crisis, 1885—1925,” in *Migration, Migration, History, History: Old Paradigms and New Perspectives*, ed. Jan Lucassen and Leo Lucassen.

**Week 11**

**Nov. 17**                      **Migrant Labor and Politics**

- Alicia Schmidt-Camacho, *Migrant Imaginaries: Latino Cultural Politics in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands* (NYU, 2008)
- Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects*, 225-264.

**Week 12**

**Nov. 24**                      **Laboring in an Empire of Bases**

- Jana Lipman, *Guantanamo: A Working-Class History between Empire and Revolution* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008)
- Seungsook Moon, “Regulating Desire, Managing the Empire: U.S. Military Prostitution in South Korea, 1945-1970,” in *Over There: Living with the U.S. Military Empire from World War Two to the Present* (Duke, 2010).

**Week 13**

**Dec. 1**                      **Guest Workers and Postwar Labor Bondage**

- Cindy Hahamovitch, *No Man’s Land: Jamaican Guestworkers in America and the History of Deportable Labor* (Princeton, 2011).

**Week 14**

**Dec. 8**                      **TBD**