Race and Ethnicity in the United States
Graduate Syllabus
History 21:512:388
Fall 2020
Monday, 6:00-8:50

Professor Kornel Chang
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Office Hrs: Available by zoom or phone, by appointment

Description
This seminar examines the historical development of racism, seeking to understand the complex ways in which race has functioned in the Americas, with a focus on the United States. While racism has proven to be a durable and pervasive phenomenon, it is not without a history. We will examine how race and racism has shifted and changed over time addressing, among other things, how it has been defined; its internal logic and contradictions, and the political, social, and cultural work it has performed in the service of nation and empire. In doing so, we will focus on the ways in which race has been articulated with and alongside other systems of difference including class, gender, and sexuality.

Readings average 150-200 pages per week and students will be expected to write and turn in a short response paper each 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 are expected for each session.

II. Critical Response Papers (40%)
Students will be required to write a 1-2 page response to the reading 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* (Harvard University Press, 1999)
• Paul Kramer, *The Blood of Government: Race, Empire, the United States and the Philippines* (UNC, 2006)


All required texts are currently available electronically on the Rutgers library website.

**Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend every class, arrive on time and stay for the duration of the class. *Excused vs. Unexcused absences*: The Rutgers-Newark Undergraduate catalog (http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nwk-ug_current/pg576.html) states: “The recognized grounds for absence are illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions.”

Two unexcused absences lower your final grade by one letter grade. Any student who misses four or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.

If you arrive late, after I have taken attendance, I will give you half credit for being in class. This means that two late arrivals will count as one unexcused absence. I realize that delays are sometimes inevitable, and I would rather that you come to class late than not at all. To accommodate that, I will give you three free late passes – after the third late arrival, the late policy as stated above will kick in, with no exceptions. Leaving early without prior permission will count as an unexcused absence.

**Policy on Academic Integrity (Cheating and Plagiarism)**

Rutgers University treats cheating and plagiarism as serious offenses. Cheating is both a moral and an ethical offense. It violates both your own integrity and the ethics of group commitment: when you cut corners and cheat, you undermine those students who took the time to work on the assignment honestly. As a standard minimum penalty, students who are suspected of cheating or plagiarism are reported to the Office of Academic Integrity. Pending investigation, further penalties can include failure of the course, disciplinary probation, and a formal warning that further cheating will be grounds for expulsion from the University.

All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge. To receive credit, every assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment.”

Generally speaking, it is a violation of the academic integrity code to:

- Use someone else’s words or ideas without attribution
- Copy content from someone else’s paper, quiz, or exam
- Have someone else complete course assignments
Names and Pronouns
An important part of creating a respectful learning environment is knowing and using the name you use, which may differ from your legal name, as well as the gendered pronouns you use (for example, I go by he/him/his). Please feel free to let me know your name and/or the pronouns you use at any time.

Accommodation and Support Statement
Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

For Individuals with Disabilities: The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS at (973)353-5375 or via email at ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals who are Pregnant: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-1906 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Absence Verification: The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (e.g., illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to University Policy 10.2.7 for information about expectations and responsibilities. The Office of the Dean of Students can be contacted by calling (973) 353-5063 or emailing deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries: The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (e.g., broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using the following link: https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu.

For English as a Second Language (ESL): The Program in American Language Studies (PALS) can support students experiencing difficulty in courses due to English as a Second Language (ESL) and can be reached by emailing PALS@newark.rutgers.edu to discuss potential supports.

For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. Incidents may also be reported by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. For more information, students should refer to the University’s Student Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship
For support related to interpersonal violence: The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance can provide any student with confidential support. The office is a confidential resource and does not have an obligation to report information to the University’s Title IX Coordinator. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing run.vpva@rutgers.edu. There is also a confidential text-based line available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support.

For Crisis and Concerns: The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a support plan to address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Students, faculty and staff may contact the CARE Team by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNCARE or emailing careteam@rutgers.edu.

For Stress, Worry, or Concerns about Well-being: The Counseling Center has confidential therapists available to support students. Students should reach out to the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment: counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or (973) 353-5805. If you are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out TAO at Rutgers-Newark for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support: https://tinyurl.com/RUNTAO.

For emergencies, call 911 or contact Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) by calling (973) 353-5111.

For Technology Assistance: https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/technology-resources-for-students

Contact information for OIT-Newark Help Desk: https://runit.rutgers.edu/hd/

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

All articles/essays are available through the library website or on the internet. Films can be accessed through the Rutgers library website or a streaming platform.

Week 1
Sept. 8 Introduction

Week 2
Sept. 14 Defining the Terms

Week 3
Sept. 21  Race and Slavery


Week 4
Sept. 28  Middle Grounds and Racialized Spaces


Week 5
Oct. 5  Gender and Making of Jim Crow South


Week 6
Oct. 12  Frontier Expansion


Week 7
Oct. 19  Performing Whiteness

- Ian Haney-Lopez, *White By Law*, 56-77

Week 8
Oct. 26  Performing Blackness


**Week 9**  
**Nov. 2** Race and Empire


**Week 10**  
**Nov. 9** Individual Meetings for Final Paper

**Week 11**  
**Nov. 16** Immigration and Borders


**Week 12**  
**Nov. 23** Race and Postwar Spaces


**Week 13**  
**Nov. 30** The War on Drugs and the Prison-Industrial Complex


**Week 14**  
**Dec. 7** TBD

Final Historiographical Essay Due (Date TBD)