

Macalester College

History 330-01: Historians and Critical Race Theory W Noon – 1PM

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OM 318

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OM 111

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This course is designed to promote the goals of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, to support Macalester students of color as they prepare themselves for graduate work in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Our focus is knowledge production – an exploration of where knowledge is produced, who produces it, for whom it is produced, what purposes it fulfills, and what challenges knowledge producers face in contemporary U.S. society. We will pay particular attention to the ways that racism challenges knowledge production by scholars of color and the ways that the academy is changing in this increasingly neoliberal world.

While students will be working in a variety of disciplines and on a wide range of individual projects, the seminar will take an historical approach, considering change over time, the relationship between the past and the present, and the ways that our work is shaped by the contexts in which we live. This semester we will pay particular attention to post-modern theory and the emergence (perhaps) of a post-modern society, asking questions about the role(s) of race and racism in comparison to their role(s) in the past. The seminar will discuss shared readings, but it will also provide a setting for students to present their own work, raise questions about each others' and their own projects, and to build community and provide support for each other.

In addition to our scheduled work, there will be outings to plays, performances, and cultural exhibits, and, hopefully, sessions with diverse knowledge producers both inside and outside the college. Attendance and participation is a priority for each student.

These books will be available at the college bookstore:

David Harvey, THE CONDITION OF POSTMODERNITY

Miranda Joseph, AGAINST THE ROMANCE OF COMMUNITY

#### Syllabus (subject to change)

- 1/28 The Challenges of Knowledge Production  
Read (via email): Walter Johnson, "On Agency," J OF SOCIAL HISTORY
- 2/4 The Passage from Modernity to Postmodernity  
Read: THE CONDITION OF POSTMODERNITY, chaps. 1-4, pp. 3-98
- 2/11 Race in South Africa: The Value of Comparative Study  
Read: to be provided
- 7PM Film and discussion(JBD): "I'm Not Black, I'm Coloured"

- 2/18 Modernization and Postmodernity: Theory and History  
Read: THE CONDITION OF POSTMODERNITY, 5-6, pp. 99-120
- F 2/20 – Sat 2/21: American Studies Conference: “Whiteness in the Age of Obama”
- 2/25 Race, Racism, and Science  
Read: To be provided
- 3/4 Race, Racism, and Science  
Read: To be provided
- 3/11 Political & Economic Transformation of Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century Capitalism  
Read: THE CONDITION OF POSTMODERNITY, 7-11, pp. 121-200
- 3/18 No class – Spring Break
- 3/25 The Experience of Space and Time  
Read: THE CONDITION OF POSTMODERNITY, 12-18, pp 201-326
- 4/1 Postmodernity: Theory and/or Experience  
Read: THE CONDITION OF POSTMODERNITY, 19-27, pp. 327-359
- 4/8 A Critique of the Romantic Discourse of Community  
Read: AGAINST THE ROMANCE OF COMMUNITY, Intro & 1, vii – 29
- 4/15 Production, Consumption, and Performance  
Read: AGAINST THE ROMANCE OF COMMUNITY, 2, pp. 30-68
- 4/22 Voluntary Associations and the Subject  
Read: AGAINST THE ROMANCE OF COMMUNITY, 3, pp. 69-118
- 4/29 Sexuality, Commodification, and Performance  
Read: AGAINST THE ROMANCE OF COMMUNITY, 4, pp.119-145
- 5/6 Capitalism, Globalization, Knowledge, and Activism  
Read: AGAINST THE ROMANCE OF COMMUNITY, 5 & Epilogue, 146-174