



Race in Modern Latin America

HISL 772-01 – Fall 2007 – Hebert Hall 114 – T 3:30pm – 6:00pm

Prof. Justin Wolfe
Office Hours: W1:30 – 4:00pm or by appt.
Web: <http://www.tulane.edu/~jwolfe>

Office: 203 Hebert Hall
Office Phone: 862-8630
E-mail: jwolfe@tulane.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is “race”? What is “ethnicity”? What did it mean to be “Black” or “Indian” or “White” in eighteenth-century Latin America? What did it mean to be of mixed descent? What do these mean today? What are the relationships between “race” and lived social identity, social relations, and politics? Is “race” a means to political empowerment, or the source of discrimination?

This seminar explores these issues and ideas in the context of late-colonial and postcolonial Latin American history. In answering these questions, we will look at a variety of theoretical and disciplinary approaches to “race.” Armed with the history of these changing ideas, we will then consider a variety of case studies from throughout Latin America. Throughout we will be considering not just the histories of “race,” but the analytical obstacles to and implications of scholarly approaches to “race.” **Note:** this syllabus is subject to change.

GRADING POLICY AND ASSIGNMENTS

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

- Participation and discussion (15%)
- Bi-weekly book responses (3 x 10% = 30%)
- Discussion leadership (15%)
- Research essay (40%)

Every other week, students will write a brief (500 word max.) response to the reading (see the class schedule). These essays shall contain four sections: 1) the argument; 2) the sources; 3) theoretical engagement with race; 4) your personal response. Starting on October 2, groups of two or three students will lead discussion.

Your final assignment is a research essay that engages some issue of race in Latin American history and, preferably, makes use of primary sources available in any of the local libraries or archives.

READINGS FOR THE COURSE

All of the following books are available for purchase at the University Book Store. Readings marked with ■ are to be downloaded from Blackboard and printed.

Appelbaum, Nancy P. *Muddied Waters: Race, Region, and Local History in Colombia, 1846–1948*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2003.

Cadena, Marisol de la. *Indigenous Mestizos: The Politics of Race and Culture in Cuzco, Peru, 1919–1991*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2000.

Graham, Richard, ed. *The Idea of Race in Latin America, 1870–1940*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1990.

Grandin, Greg. *The Blood of Guatemala: A History of Race and Nation*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1999.

Lesser, Jeffrey. *Negotiating National Identity: Immigrants, Minorities, and the Struggle for Ethnicity in Brazil*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1999.

Martínez-Alier, Verena. *Marriage, Class, and Colour in Nineteenth-Century Cuba: A Study of Racial Attitudes and Sexual Values in a Slave Society*. 2nd ed. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1989.

Tannenbaum, Frank. *Slave and Citizen*. With an introduction by Franklin W. Knight. Boston: Beacon Press, 1992.

Telles, Edward E. *Race in Another America: The Significance of Skin Color in Brazil*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2004.

Wade, Peter. *Blackness and Race Mixture: The Dynamics of Racial Identity in Colombia*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995.

Available at the reserve desk in the library and worth reading for broad overviews of Latin American history and race are:

Andrews, George Reid. *Afro-Latin America, 1800–2000*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Mörner, Magnus, ed. *Race and Class in Latin America*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1970.

Wade, Peter. *Race and Ethnicity in Latin America*. London: Pluto Press, 1997.

COURSE SCHEDULE

9/4 No class. Be prepared to discuss readings for class on 9/11

The reading by Peter Wade will provide an overview for our discussion. The rest of the readings represent early theoretical approaches to race, ethnicity and class. In reading Wagley, Hoetink, Barth, and Marx consider how these authors define their subject of analysis and the implications for future research.

9/11 Race and Theory (1)

Wade, Peter. "The Meaning 'Race' and 'Ethnicity'." In *Race and Ethnicity in Latin America*, 5–24. London: Pluto Press, 1997. ■ (The bibliography Wade references is available as a separate file.)

Wagley, Charles. "On the Concept of Social Race in the Americas." In *Contemporary Cultures and*

Societies in Latin America, edited by Dwight B. Heath and Richard N. Adams, 531–45. New York: Random House, 1965. ■

Hoetink, H. “Colonial Psychology’ and Race.” *Journal of Economic History* 21, no. 4 (December 1961): 629–40. ■

Barth, Fredrik. “Introduction.” In *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries: The Social Organization of Culture Difference*, edited by Fredrik Barth, 9–38. Boston: Little Brown, 1969. ■

Marx, Karl. “Wage Labor and Capital” (1849), edited and introduced by Frederick Engels (London, 1891). ■

9/18 Race and Theory (2)

Stutzman, Ronald. “El Mestizaje: An All-Inclusive Ideology of Exclusion.” In *Cultural Transformations and Ethnicity in Modern Ecuador*, edited by Norman E. Whitten, 45–93. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1981. ■

Gilroy, Paul. “Race’, Class and Agency,” in *“There Ain’t No Black in the Union Jack”: The Cultural Politics of Race and Nation*, 15–42. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991. ■

Smith, Carol A. “Race-Class-Gender Ideology in Guatemala: Modern and Anti-Modern Forms.” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 37, no. 4 (October 1995): 723–49. ■

Yelvington, Kevin. “The Anthropology of Afro-Latin America and the Caribbean: Diasporic Dimensions.” *Annual Review of Anthropology* 30 (2001): 227–60. ■

9/25 Race and Theory (3)

Holt, Thomas C. “Marking: Race, Race-Making, and the Writing of History.” *American Historical Review* 100, no. 1 (February 1995): 1–20. ■

Prakash, Gyan. “Writing Post-Orientalist Histories of the Third World: Perspectives from Indian Historiography.” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 32, no. 2 (April 1990): 383–408. ■

Hale, Charles R. “Travel Warning: Elite Appropriations of Hybridity, Mestizaje, Antiracism, Equality, and Other Progressive-Sounding Discourses in Highland Guatemala.” *Journal of American Folklore* 112, no. 445 (Summer 1999): 297–315. ■

Wade, Peter. “Race,’ Nature and Culture.” *Man* 28, no. 1 (March 1993): 17–34. ■

Wade, Peter. “Rethinking Mestizaje: Ideology and Lived Experience.” *Journal of Latin American Studies* 37 (2005): 239–57.

10/2 Colonial Ideas of Race

Selections from Konetzke, Richard, ed. *Colección de documentos para la historia de la formación social de Hispanoamérica, 1493–1810*. Madrid: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, 1953–62. 3 vols. ■

Tannenbaum, Frank. *Slave and Citizen*. With an introduction by Franklin W. Knight. Boston: Beacon Press, 1992.

10/9 Ideas of Race during the Long Nineteenth Century

Selections from nineteenth-century European racialist writings. ■■

Graham, Richard, ed. *The Idea of Race in Latin America, 1870–1940*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1990.

10/16 Race, Slavery and Gender in Cuba

Martínez-Alier, Verena. *Marriage, Class, and Colour in Nineteenth-Century Cuba: A Study of Racial Attitudes and Sexual Values in a Slave Society*. 2nd ed. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1989.

10/23 Race and Nation in Guatemala

Grandin, Greg. *The Blood of Guatemala: A History of Race and Nation*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1999.

10/30 Race and Culture in Peru

Cadena, Marisol de la. *Indigenous Mestizos: The Politics of Race and Culture in Cuzco, Peru, 1919–1991*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2000.

11/6 Race and Identity in Colombia

Wade, Peter. *Blackness and Race Mixture: The Dynamics of Racial Identity in Colombia*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995.

11/13 Race and Politics in Brazil

Telles, Edward E. *Race in Another America: The Significance of Skin Color in Brazil*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2004.

11/20 Thanksgiving Break – No class

11/27 Race, Region and Whiteness in Colombia

Appelbaum, Nancy P. *Muddied Waters: Race, Region, and Local History in Colombia, 1846–1948*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2003.

12/4 Race and Other “Others” in Brazil

Lesser, Jeffrey. *Negotiating National Identity: Immigrants, Minorities, and the Struggle for Ethnicity in Brazil*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1999.

12/11 Research paper due by 5pm.