

RACE, SEX, DIFFERENCE **INT 407-301**

x-listed with PAX, SOC, Geo

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Office: 990 W. Fullerton #4110
Classroom: Arts & Letters – Room 202

Class time: Tuesday evening
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Difference is a concept that has been theorized in many ways. This course surveys a highly circumscribed set of theories that explore the *work* that difference does, particularly through categories of race and sex. In emphasizing the notion of “work,” we open difference up to multi-scalar analyses of what it means to be human: how identity and difference operate across political, economic, social, and cultural frames and how difference and identity intersect. At the same time, we attempt to de-center the human by seeing how the nonhuman world (animate and inanimate) likewise animates our lives, shaping identities and how power forms and circulates.

The emphasis on difference and identity helps to explain why I have chosen the theoretical and empirical frameworks that I have. Collectively, the texts address race and sex in light of power, spatiality, context, and family. We read widely across disciplines and scales, touching on both established theoretical domains (queer theory, Foucauldian and Deleuzian analyses, and psychoanalysis), those currently in the re-making (vitalism and animacy), and those working creatively across theoretical divides.

COURSE GOALS:

To learn to think about how difference operates across scales and material contexts, the difference that subjectivity makes, and the subjectivities that difference makes. We do this through arguably two of the most important social categories to-date, race and sex. While these intersect with class, they exceed it, historically and geographically.

ATTENDANCE VS PARTICIPATION

Grades are significantly lowered after one unexcused absence. If you need information about a class that was missed and the absence is unexcused, please contact classmates for information. If the absence is excused, please contact me about what was missed, bringing proof of what it was that prevented attendance. Emergencies do not include: birthdays, dates with loved ones, anniversaries, weddings, extended travel to visit family or friends, **a job interview**, **a doctor's appointment**, or a much-needed vacation. If you are unsure about what constitutes an emergency, feel free to contact me.

A solid participation grade depends on the quality of in-class engagements and contributions. I look forward to everyone bringing something to the table.

READINGS

The readings for class are indicated, below and must be brought to class, either in hard or digital copy. If and when the instructor announces changes to the syllabus, including new readings, students are responsible for the changes. Students who miss class are responsible for finding out what information was missed.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is not tolerated at DePaul. Those found plagiarizing in any way fail the course. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes plagiarism, please consult the DePaul handbook. If you are still uncertain, feel free to consult me.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

There are three grades: participation; reflection papers, and a final conference presentation. The quality and rigor of the research *and* final conference product/s determine the grade assigned.

25% PARTICIPATION – judged primarily by the quality and thoughtfulness of the engagement and contributions
 30% REFLECTION PAPERS – *Garamond 12 pt & active voice.*
 45% CONFERENCE PRESENTATION AND PRODUCT *For written work, please use the citational guide on D2L*

CLASS SCHEDULE - TUESDAYS:

1: 1 April *sexuality*

- Warner, M. 1993. *Fear of a queer planet: Queer politics*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Introduction to course: What is difference? Class expectations and structure, anticipated learning outcomes, final projects.
 Film: Julien, Isaac. 1998. *Looking for Langston*. 60 min. Sankofa Film and Video Productions.

2: 8 April *sexuality (AAG) Monday evening?*

- Foucault, M. 1990. *The history of sexuality, volume 1: An introduction*. New York: Vintage Books.
 Film: Nakashima, T. 2004. *Kamikaze girls*. Tokyo: Amuse Pictures. DVD (accessible: Netflix DVD).

3: 15 April *psychoanalysis, identity, difference*

- Lacan, Jacques. 1938. *Family complexes in the formation of the individual*.
<http://www.lacanireland.com/web/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/FAMILY-COMPLEXES-IN-THE-FORMATION-OF-THE-INDIVIDUAL2.pdf>
 Film: Truffault, F. 1970. *The wild child*. Beverly Hills, CA: MGM World Films. (accessible: Netflix DVD).

4: 22 April *psychoanalysis, race & abjection* Guest facilitator, Norma Claire Moruzzi, UIC, uses Kristeva extensively in her book on Hannah Arendt: *Speaking through the Mask: Hannah Arendt and the Politics of Social Identity*. Cornell University Press. Winner of the 2002 Gradiva Award, Best Book (Social Theory), National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis.

- Kristeva, J. 1982. *Powers of horror: An essay on abjection*. New York: Columbia University Press.
 Film: Bunuel, Luis. 1974. *Phantom of liberty*. The Criterion Collection (104 minutes, available on youtube)

5: 29 April *race & Deleuze*

- Saldanha, A., and J. M. Adams, eds. 2012. *Deleuze and race*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. Seminar guest: Dr. Melissa Minor, recent PhD from Northwestern University, studies LGBTQ communities in Uganda. She will be in town for Northwestern's Queertopia conference, 2-4 May (see below).
 Film: Olsson, Goran. 2011. *The black power mixtape, 1967-1975*. Stockholm: StoryAB.

Additional references at: <http://network.bepress.com/explore/arts-and-humanities/race-ethnicity-and-post-colonial-studies/african-american-studies/>

6: 6 May animality & difference Guest facilitator, Professor Peter Steeves, Philosophy, DePaul
 Steeves, P. 2006. The animal as first philosophy. Section 1 in *The things themselves*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press. (Recall that these were emailed to you)
 Performance: Danielle Meijer, Director, Aleph World Fusion Dance.
<http://www.alephdance.com/>

7: 13 May race & defense Guest facilitator, Glenda Garelli, ABD at UIC, refugees & securitization

- Foucault, M. 2003. *Society must be defended: Lectures at Collège de France, 1975-1976*. London: Macmillan.
 Film: Lee, Spike. 1989. *Do the right thing*. Universal Studios. (note DePaul is hosting a 7pm showing of *God loves Uganda*, a newly released film about western Christian fundamentalisms in Uganda and homophobia. I am trying to arrange a different showing so that we can go another day.)

8: 20 May psychoanalysis & vitalism

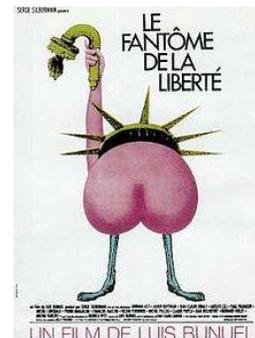
- Saldanha, A., and H. Song, eds. 2013. *Sexual difference between psychoanalysis and vitalism*. London: Routledge.
 Film: Garrone, M. 2008. *Gomorrhah*. Venice: Domenico Procacci. DVD.

9: 27 May posthumanism & difference

- Bennett, J. 2010. *Vibrant matter: A political ecology of things*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
 Guest facilitator, Dr. Rhoda Rosen, former curator of Spertus Museum; Associate Director of Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development; Adjunct at UIC and The Art Institute in Museum Studies; Curator of Encounters at the Edge of the Forest (Gallery 400; see below)
 Film: Herzog, W., and D. Vasyukov. 2010. *Happy people: A year in taiga*. Chicago: Music Box Films. (accessible: Netflix streaming).

10: 3 June all of the above?

- Chen, M. 2012. *Animacies: Biopolitics, racial mattering, and queer affect*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
 Film: Caro, M., and J. Jeunet. 1995. *The city of lost children*. Culver City, CA: Sony Pictures Home Entertainment. DVD.



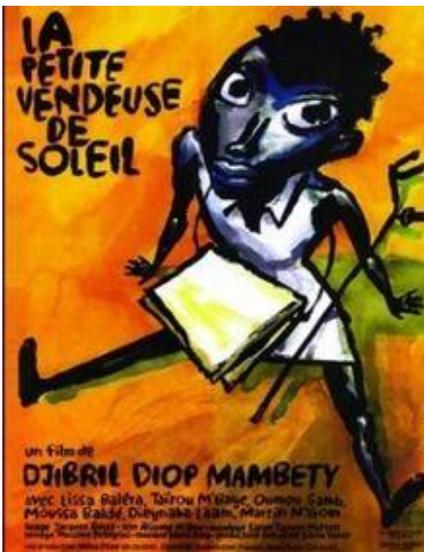


Additional films:

Ghobadi, B. 2008. *Turtles can fly*. New York: IFC Film. DVD (accessible: Netflix streaming).



Rivera, A. 2008. *Sleep dealer*. Austin, TX: Likely Story Productions. DVD (accessible: Netflix).



Djibril Diop Mambety. 1999. La petite vendeuse de soleil. 45mins. Waka films. (accessible DePaul University Library).

Birds know what god is like. They are nearer than Hyenas to god. They are like some kind of elephant whose wings flow in the wind, and African Film makers can be birds for reinventing the seventh art. We are perhaps poor in money but so rich by situation and hope. *DDM*



Engendering Change 2014:
Annual Chicago Area Graduate Student Conference
Northwestern University
April 4th & 5th

Friday, April 4th, 12pm, Annie May Swift Auditorium
with reception to follow in Kresge 2-370

Francesca Royster
Professor of English, DePaul University
**Engendering Funky Futures: Labelle, Meshell
Ndegeocello and Janelle Monae**

Saturday, April 5th, 9am-5:15pm, Kresge 2-359 & 2-420
Free breakfast and lunch with preregistration at engenderingchangeconference.wordpress.com

9:30-11:00am Session 1 Panel A: Reproduction & Health Panel B: Youth Cultures & Futures	1:45-3:15pm: Session 3 Panel A: Gendering Performance in the Modern West Panel B: Gender in African History
11:15am-1:00pm: Session 2 Panel A: Public Embodiment, Embodied Publics Panel B: Mediating Communities	3:30-4:15pm: Session 4 Panel A: Representation in Public Discourse Panel B: Structures, Governance, and Self-Fashioning

Sponsored by the Gender & Sexuality Studies Program, Northwestern University, with support from the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities

<http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/encounters-at-the-edge-of-the-forest>

Opening 2 May 2014, Gallery400, Encounters at the Edge of the Forest, a compelling and provocative contemporary art exhibition that addresses trees as sites and pawns in diverse histories of political and social injustice. Our exhibition draws together both international and domestic artists to excavate complex local and global issues. We are a diverse team of 11 passionate graduate students, led by curator and educator **Rhoda Rosen, PhD**. We have exceptionally generous, yet partial funding from the supportive Museum and Exhibition Studies program at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Queertopia conference, Northwestern,
2-4 May 2014



Table manners: I'm wondering if we can do away with plastic plates, forks, knives, cups, and so on for the duration of our luxuriating spring dinners. I have a modest proposal: can we not bring our own implements with us, along with a single bowl? It would then be easy to cart that home and wash. Even better: Bring an empty Tupperware dish, use it to eat, and then use it to take home left-overs. Brilliant. No worries for the first night! I've got you covered.