RACE, SEX, DIFFERENCE
INT 407-301
x-listed with PAX, SOC, Geo

Heidi J. Nast, PhD, Instructor
Class time: Tuesday evening
Office: 990 W. Fullerton #4110
Office hrs: by appointment
Classroom: Arts & Letters – Room 202
hnast@depaul.edu p:773.325.7882

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

2: 8 April sexuality (AAG) Monday evening?

3: 15 April psychoanalysis, identity, difference


5: 29 April race & Deleuze

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
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

9: 27 May posthumanism & difference
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)

10: 3 June all of the above?
Additional films:


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*
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.