

**Sociology 309 (Revised)**  
**Critical Intesections: Race, Class, Gender and the Nation**  
FALL 2007  
W 2:50-5:20  
PNE 430

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PNE 300

Office Hours: M 2:30-3:30, W 10-11 or by appt.

## **I. Overview**

In an increasingly borderless world of open markets and global economies, how and why does nationalism continue to be a powerful force? How are old and new nations built and sustained? How does globalization challenge these dynamics? To tackle these questions, we bring to bear the vocabularies of feminist and critical race theory and postcolonial critique. Using these tools, we will learn to think about how nations work to ultimately come to an understanding of the continued power of a sense of belonging.

The readings will develop the idea of the nation as an ultimately tenuous synthesis of gendered, racial, religious, and class meanings that work together differently in various historical and spatial contexts. This synthesis must be constantly rebuilt, refreshed, and reframed to conceal its own contradictions. We will explore how the nation as a set of cultural meanings interacts with the institutions of the state. To do this, we employ a transnational approach in this course—shifting away from comparisons *across* contexts towards a practice of drawing connections *between* contexts. The course is broadly divided into two sections that necessarily overlap: a theoretical section in which we attempt to look at race, gender, and nation in isolation, and an empirical section in which we will examine the mutual constitution of race, gender, religion, class, and nation in practice.

## **II. Course Requirements:**

**1. Readings:** The following books are available from the campus bookstore and should be purchased for use in this course. These items are also on reserve at the Clapp library:

Anderson, Benedict. 1991. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and spread of nationalism*. New York:Verso.

Chatterjee, Partha. 1986. *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World: A Derivative Discourse?* Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press.

Marx, Anthony. 1998. *Making Race and Nation: A Comparison of the United States, South Africa, and Brazil*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Ong, Aihwa. 1999. *Flexible Citizenship: Cultural Logics of Transnationality*. Durham: Duke University Press.

McClintock, Anne. 1995. *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest*. New York: Routledge.

Hansen, Thomas Blom. 1999. *The Saffron Wave: Democracy and Hindu Nationalism in Modern India*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Brown, Wendy. 1995. *States of Injury*. Princeton, NY: Princeton University Press.

## **2. Course participation:**

This course is a seminar that will only be useful and successful if each of us comes to class having completed the assigned readings and ready to engage in discussion. Many of the readings assigned here are dense and are designed to push your reading and critical analytical skills, so rise to the challenge! Class discussions will be a dialogue not only between you and I, but also, just as importantly, between you and your other colleagues in the class. If you are too shy to speak up in class, please set up appointments to meet with me individually. Since this is a weekly seminar with only 13 class meetings, attendance is MANDATORY. More than one absence during the course of the term will dramatically affect your participation grade.

## **3. Written Assignments**

- a) Reading responses: In this course, we will have a total of twelve weeks of reading. Each student must turn in eight reading responses by the end of the term, which can apply to any week of reading. A reading response must briefly outline the main arguments of the readings (and how they relate to each other), and critical questions that came up during the course of the readings. Reading responses must be posted to Soc 309's course conference by 9AM on the Wednesday mornings and will be used to frame our afternoon discussion. Please give me a hard copy of your responses in class. Word limit: 350-500 words.
- b) Term paper: Each student will be required to write a 15-20 page paper as the final project for this class. There are two kinds of papers you may write:
  - i. Analytic paper: This type of paper will be based primarily (or perhaps exclusively) on the readings within the class and will aim to more deeply explore the topics discussed in class through close readings and careful theoretical writing.
  - ii. Historical paper: This type of paper will be based primarily on sources outside of the class readings. Students must begin with a concept or theme developed in class to research a particular nation-state or nationalist group. This assignment will be most useful to students who are interested in a particular area of the world or a particular ethnic or national group. A successful paper will explore and explain how a sense of belonging was created and legitimized within the group or nation being studied.

## **III. Grading**

Grades will be based upon all of the course requirements. The breakdown will be as follows:

Participation: 20%

Reading Responses: 30%

Final Paper: 50%

#### IV. Course Outline and Readings (Revised)

##### PART I: Theorizing the Nation

September 5<sup>th</sup> – Week 1: Introduction and Outline of the Course

- Huntington, Samuel. 1993. “The Clash of Civilizations?” *Foreign Affairs*. Summer. (available online through Wellesley library). Pp. 22-50

September 12<sup>th</sup> – Week 2: What is the nation?

- Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities*. Chapters 1-5, 7
- Brubaker, Rogers. 1996. “Rethinking Nationhood: Nation as Institutionalized Form, Practical Category, Contingent Event.” In *Nationalism Reframed*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp 13-22. (to be distributed in class)

September 19<sup>th</sup> – Week 3: Colonialism and the Nation

- Fanon, Frantz. 1963. “On National Culture.” In *Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press. (on e-reserve)
- Chatterjee, Partha. 1986. *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World*. Chapters 1, 2, & 6.

September 26<sup>th</sup> – Week 4: Theorizing a Racial Nation

- Marx, Anthony. *Making Race and Nation*. (selections TBA)

October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Week 5: Theorizing a Gendered Nation

- Heng, Geraldine. “A Great Way to Fly”: Nationalism, the State, and Varieties of Third-World Feminism. (on e-reserve)
- Ramaswamy, Sumathi. 1999. “Virgin Mother, Beloved Other: The Erotics of Tamil Nationalism in Colonial and Post-Colonial India.” In *Signposts: Gender issues in post-independence India*. (to be distributed in class)
- Yuval-Davis, Nira. 1997. *Gender and Nation*. London, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications (selection to be on e-reserve)
- Paper topic proposals (1 page) due

October 10<sup>th</sup> – Week 6: Citizenship and the Nation

- Ong, Aihwa. 1999. *Flexible Citizenship*. Durham: Duke University Press. (selections TBA)
- Glenn, Evelyn Nakano. 2000. “Citizenship and Inequality: Historical and Global Perspectives.” *Social Problems*. V. 47(1) 1-20. (available online through Wellesley library)

##### PART II: CRITICAL INTERSECTIONS

October 17<sup>th</sup> – Week 7: Race, Gender, Class and the Imperial Nation

- McClintock, Anne. 1995. *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender and Sexuality in the colonial conquest*. (chapter 1,3)

- Chatterjee, Partha. 1989. "Colonialism, nationalism, and the contest in India." *American Ethnologist*. 16(4) 622-633. (available online through Wellesley library)
- Davidoff, Leonore and Catherine Hall. 1987. "The nursery of virtue': domestic ideology and the middle class." (on e-reserve)

October 24<sup>th</sup> – Week 8: The Multicultural Nation-State

- Brown, Wendy. *States of Injury*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Ch 1, 3, 7
- Povinelli, Elizabeth A. 1998. "The Shate of Shame: Australian multiculturalism and the crisis of indigenous citizenship." *Critical Inquiry*. Vol. 24 (Winter) 575-610. (available online through Wellesley library)

October 31<sup>st</sup> – Week 9: Women's Movements and Democratic Nationalist Movements

- McClintock, Anne. 1995. "No longer in a future heaven." In *Imperial Leather*.
- Ray, Raka and Anna Korteweg. 1999. "Women's movements in the Third World: Identity, Mobilization and Autonomy." *Annual Review of Sociology*. 25: 47-71. (available online through Wellesley library)
- Lazreg, Marnia. 1990. "Gender and Politics in Algeria: Unraveling the Religious Paradigm." *Signs*, Vol. 15, No. 4, 755-780. Summer. (available online through Wellesley library)
- Annotated Bibliography for final paper to be peer-reviewed in class

November 7<sup>th</sup> – Week 10: Diasporic Nations

- Bhattacharjee, Ananya. 1999. "The Habit of Ex-Nomination: Nation, Woman, and the Indian Immigrant Bourgeoisie." In Sangeeta Gupta (ed.) *Emerging Voices: South Asian Women Redefine Community*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. Pp 229-252. (to be on e-reserve)
- Ong, Aihwa. 1999. "A Momentary Glow of Fraternity" in *Flexible Citizenship*.
- Radhakrishnan, Smitha. 2005. "Time to Show our True Colors: the Gendered Politics of Indianness in Post-Apartheid South Africa." *Gender and Society*. Vol. 19 (2) 262-281 (available online through Wellesley library)
- Bernal, Victoria. 2006. "Diaspora, cyberspace, and political imagination: The Eritrean diaspora online." *Global Networks*. Vol 6 (2) pp 161-179 (to be on e-reserve)

November 14<sup>th</sup> – Week 11: Diasporic Nations II

- Special Guest, Vijay Singh, filmmaker, historian, writer
- Readings to be distributed
- In class film: *One Dollar Curry*, followed by discussion

November 28<sup>th</sup> – Week 12: Globalization and Religious Nation-Building

- Hansen, Thomas Blom. 1999. *The Saffron Wave: Democracy and Hindu Nationalism in Modern India*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. (selections TBA)
- Castells, Manuel. 1996. *The Power of Identity*. Blackwell Publishing. (pp 1-70, selections TBA, to be on e-reserve)

December 5 – Week 13: Paper workshop

- Rough drafts to be brought to class and peer-reviewed

December 20<sup>th</sup> – Final papers due at 330 Pendleton, 4:30 PM  
(absolutely no late papers accepted)