

Ethnic Studies 301 Ethnic Identity

Summer 2011

Instructor: Noel Jacob Kent

Office: George Hall 338; Hours: Monday 10-11; Tuesday/Thursday 1030-11:15, 1-2;
and by appointment

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This is a course exploring the nature and importance of ethnic (and other) identities. In the first part of this class we review both the basic concepts in ethnic identity and theoretical ideas. In the second, we will engage a book, articles and films casting some light on ethnic identity and general American identities and the what consequences those identities may have both on individuals and the larger society.. We will also be looking at the possibilities of transforming notions of identity to build a more peaceful, just world. Throughout the course we will be connecting issues of identity to broader political-social-economic concerns.

This is a writing intensive course and writing is abundant. This course fulfills the general education ethics and writing intensive focus mandates; so writing and ethical concerns will have a continuing emphasis throughout the semester. **Students are required to do seventeen hours of community service at a site designated by the instructor, keep a journal of their experiences and write a small capstone summary** of what they have learned. **Students are expected to attend class regularly, participate actively in the life of the course and do quality written work. Papers will not be accepted after the day they are due.** Evaluations will be on the basis of the quality of

Personal Paper-10%

The mid-term exam-25%

Arana paper on Obama-10%

How I feel as a Muslim-10%

The *Color of Water* paper-15%

The *Chasing Red, White and Blue* paper-15%

Service learning journal-15%

Plagiarism: Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. The UH Manoa *Student Conduct Code* (1992: 6) defines plagiarism as “submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual’s work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another’s idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student’s language and style, or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved.” Plagiarism and cheating will result in a failing grade for the course.

*****The instructor reserves the right to reduce grades for excessive absences (four absences-half a grade; five-a full grade; six- two grades; seven-fail).**

The required texts are Cornell and Hartmann, *Ethnicity and Race: Making Identities in a Changing World*; James McBride, *The Color of Water*; David Cohen, *Chasing the Red White and Blue*.

Course Outline

May 23 Course expectations and conceptual framework:

Theories of ethnic/race relations; Ethnic groups, racism and discrimination:

May 24 Video *Skin Deep*; Reading: Cornell/Hartmann, chapter 1

May 25 Discussion of chapter 2 Reading: Cornell and Hartmann, chapter 2

May 26 Due* Personal Papers on Identity**

May 27 Assimilation, acculturation and integration: How do we view our personal identities and why? Reading: Cornell, ch. 3

May 30 Memorial Day

May 31 Primordialism, circumstantialism and constructionism: How and why do ethnic groups construct their identities? Reading Cornell ch. 4.

June 1 Racial formation theory, racialization, racial projects: How did the Civil Rights Revolution challenge meanings of race and create new meanings? Video *Eyes on the Prize*. Read: Handout

June 2 Contemporary identities Reading: Cornell, ch. 5

*****Review of Arana article on Obama is due**

June 3 Sites in identity construction Video: *The Color of Fear* Reading: Cornell, ch. 6 discussion

June 6 Discussion of Cornell, ch. 7

June 7 Discussion of Chapter 8 and Exam Review

June 8 *Mid Term Exam**

June 9 identity and Cinema: *Eight Mile*

June 10 Holiday

June 13 Identity and Cinema: *Dances With Wolves*

June 14 Identity and Cinema: *Kumar and Harry*

June 15 *Review of *The Color of Water* due**

June 16 Transforming Identities: The Invisible empire

June 17 Discussion of Lexington Ky. Prosecutor's statement

June 20 Transforming Identities: *** **Due About Being a Muslim:**

June 21 Transforming Identities: *Class Divided*

June 22 Various case studies of transformation

June 23 Various case studies of transformation

June 24 * Due: Review of Chasing The Red, White and Blue**

Mon. June 27 Discussion of Service Learning experiences

Tues June 28 Perspectives on Social Justice and Charity

Wed. June 29 Summing up the Class: *****All papers and service learning journal, capstone and signed off time sheet due.**