

**SOC 492 & ES 492 – POLITICS OF MULTICULTURALISM  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MANOA - FALL 2014**

**INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Nandita Sharma**

**E-MAIL: nsharma@hawaii.edu**

**OFFICE: Saunders 205**

**OFFICE HOURS: Thursday 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM or by appointment**

**OFFICE TEL.: 956-8438**

**CLASS: Thursdays 1:30-4:00 PM**

**ROOM: KUY 309**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

We will examine the social, economic, political and cultural basis for the contemporary multicultural policies of national states by situating ideas and practices of multiculturalism within their historical, global and political context. As “culture” does not exist outside of people's lived experiences, we will investigate how ideas of multiculturalism have been shaped by social relationships organized through practices and ideologies of colonialism, capitalism, nationalism, racism and sexism. We will also examine how practices of multiculturalism go on to further organize these sets of social relations. In particular, we will examine the various identifications born of these ideological practices. Using a comparative approach with analysis drawn from the United States, Canada and Australia – three nation-states that have varying degrees of state commitment to a policy of multiculturalism - the course considers a variety of concepts, models and practices of multiculturalism. We will place histories, discourses and disciplines in productive relation. At the same time, we will look at specific state policies in these three sites, including colonialism, state policies of making “White nations,” immigration, citizenship and the organization of nationalized labour markets to better contextualize the contemporary multicultural policies in these three national states. Attention will be paid to paradoxes, questions and dilemmas arising from hierarchical social structures through a close examination of the demands for, challenges against, and effects of multicultural policies.

**CLASS FORMAT**

This course will be run as a seminar. Students are responsible for coming *fully* prepared for each class and ready to *lead* class discussions. Students are responsible for the material covered in the lectures, readings and films, and for any announcements made in class.

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES**

Students will develop their critical learning skills by: examining the historical origins of key ideas, concepts and categories shaping human experience today; examining the relations or ruling that organize dominant ideas, concepts and categories and; examining how people have variously contested these ideas, concepts and categories. Students will also develop their reading, writing and oral presentation skills in order to

become clear thinkers and articulate communicators of theoretically informed empirical research.

### **CLASS EVALUATION**

Attendance and Participation	10%
Library Research Workshop Project	5%
Discussion Questions (for each class)	25%
Short Papers on Readings (2 @ 10% each)	20%
Final Research Essay (12-15 pages)	40%

### **REQUIRED READINGS**

**GH** Ghassan Hage, 2000. *White Nation: Fantasies of White Supremacy in a Multicultural Society*. New York: Routledge (with Pluto Press Australia).

**AB** Ali Behdad, 2005. *A Forgetful Nation: On Immigration and Cultural Identity in the United States*. Durham and London: Duke University Press.

**HB** Himani Bannerji, 2000. *The Dark Side of the Nation: Essays on Multiculturalism, Nationalism and Gender*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars Press. ISBN: 1551301725.

**MB** Bayoumi, Moustfa, *How Does it Feel to be a Problem? Being Young and Arab in America*. Penguin Books, 2009.

## **ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS**

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at 808-956-7511 or 808-956-7612 (voice/text) and is located in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

## **PLAGIARISM POLICY**

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the UH-Manoa Student Conduct Code. In it, plagiarism is defined as follows: "Plagiarism includes but is not limited to 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; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms" (University of Hawai`i at Manoa Student Conduct Code (1992: 6).

It is ultimately each student's responsibility to learn about plagiarism and how to avoid it. Ignorance of the rules, saying "I forgot about that" or "I made a mistake" are not considered valid excuses when it comes to plagiarism.