

**SOCIOLOGY 725: SEMINAR IN RACE RELATIONS  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MANOA - FALL 2013**

**INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Nandita Sharma**

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**OFFICE: Saunders 205**

**OFFICE HOURS: Thursday, 1:00PM to 2:00PM or by appointment**

**OFFICE TEL.: 956-8438**

**CLASS SCHEDULE: Thursday, 9:30AM to 12:00PM**

**Location: MOORE 224**

**Course Description:**

Ideas of “race” and “ethnicity” are amongst the most powerful in our world: they shape how we understand ourselves, others and even the very ground we are on. Beginning with the understanding that ideas of “race” and “ethnicity” cannot be read as innate features of nature or culture, this graduate seminar will investigate their social, historical and ideological construction. We will examine how ideas of “race” and “ethnicity” are produced and reproduced, as well as how racism is perpetuated and sustained in multiple, shifting and context-dependent ways. Hence, we will investigate the multiple, varying practices of racisms, both past and present. The course will also look at how ideas of “race,” “ethnicity” and various forms of racisms intersect with the production of other categories of identification and experiences, including “nation,” gender, class, and sexuality. There will be a particular focus on the intersections between racialized and ethnicized social formations, capitalist social relations and the exercise of state power. Hence, we will examine how racism has been embedded in the everyday workings of capitalist markets, within national laws and within everyday/everynight practices. The course will also investigate some of the “new racisms” characteristic of the contemporary postcolonial period. We will examine the paradox that emerges when societies maintain racialized inequalities but articulate principles of equality, democracy, freedom, and justice for all. Various strategies of people’s efforts to resist racism over time will be considered and debated.

A range of explanatory models and approaches will be examined from historical materialism to discourse theory and performance theory. We will use scholarly texts, feature and documentary films and our own lived experiences to examine how the ideas of “race” and “ethnicity” operate. At the same time, we will look at how processes of capitalist globalization can complicate and help to enrich our understandings of “race,” “ethnicity,” and the workings of racism in both the past and present. As this is a graduate seminar, students should come to class having done each week’s readings and bring with them a set of questions to be discussed in weekly seminars.

**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.

**REQUIRED READINGS: TBA**

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

Participation (preparation and level of engagement)	10%
Oral Presentation of one week's reading	10%
Review of each Text (3 papers, 5-6 pp each)	30%
Major Research Paper (approx. 25 pp)	50%