SOC 715 – SOCIOLOGY OF ‘RACE’, ‘NATION’ AND CITIZENSHIP
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI’I AT MANOA

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Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30 to 1:30PM
or by appointment

Class Time: Thursdays 1:30 to 4:00 PM
Classroom: Sakamaki Hall B211

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We will examine theories and debates on the role of nationalist ideologies in the ongoing process of state formation. A special emphasis will be placed on analyzing how criteria of social as well as legal citizenship – of belonging and not-belonging to national societies - are formulated through nationalist thought and practice. We will examine the legal manifestation of these social processes in state policies on citizenship and immigration. We will also examine socio-cultural processes of ethnicization, racialization, gendering and class formation to understand how identities of “national subjects” – and “foreign objects” – are organized and how they are related to one another. State categories of belonging, such as citizen, will be juxtaposed with those of non-membership, such as foreign and temporary migrant worker and illegal persons. The historical formation of nationalist ideologies and identities will be analyzed within broader processes of modernity, post-modernity and the accompanying globalization of Western Enlightenment thought through processes of colonialism and imperialism. Along with nationalist ideologies, we will also examine varieties of internationalism, cosmopolitanism and ecological perspectives to investigate practices of assimilation, accommodation and resistance.

Course content will include an historical investigation of the origins of ideas of ‘race’ and ‘nation’ within the emergent system of global capitalism and the equally global system of national states. Links between the two globalizing processes will be further made through an analysis of contemporary state policies on citizenship and immigration controls, particularly in their discriminatory effects in national markets for employment, housing, services, access to land and so on. To help understand these national state policies, we will employ the theoretical framework of “global apartheid,” wherein citizenship and immigration policies are understood to create two or more different legal regimes that distinguish between people on the basis of citizenship or nationality.

CLASS FORMAT

The course will be organized as an instructor-led participatory seminar where you will come fully prepared for each class by having completed assigned readings and having developed questions and comments that allows you to be an active participant in class discussions. You will
have the opportunity to engage in critical reading and thinking, expository writing, and oral expression. Films and guest lectures will be incorporated as needed.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course will contribute to the understanding of the historical, social and cultural formation of national states and their regulation of national belonging, or citizenship. It provides a detailed understanding of how citizenship and immigration controls affect everyday realities for people differentially classified by the state. As well, through an examination of how ideas of national belonging are informed by ideas of ethnicity, race and gender, this course contributes to a more thorough understanding of the material effects of these ideologies. By extending the discussion of oppression and exploitation to nationalist ideologies and how these act as forms of discrimination, the course strengthens the social justice effort of the Department of Sociology and UH Manoa.

REQUIRED READING


CLASS EVALUATION

Attendance and participation  15%
Journal Entries (Five)  10%
Discussion Leadership  15%
Commentaries on Readings (Two: 5-7 pages each)  30%
Final Research Paper (18-20 pages)  30%