**Carleton University**

**Winter 2013**

**Department of English**

**ENGL 5609/CLMD 6904**

**Introduction to U.S. Cultural Studies**

**Monday 2:30-5:30**

**201D St. Patrick's Building**

**Instructor: Franny Nudelman**

**Office: 1814 Dunton Tower (x1773)**

**Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-5:00 and by appointment**

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Course Description

In this course, we will explore some of the issues and approaches that have defined the field of U.S. Cultural Studies in recent years. We will read influential scholarship, as well as analyzing relevant primary sources, with an emphasis throughout on nation, empire, ethnicity, and globalization. Familiarizing ourselves with a range of methods and concepts, we will consider the different ways that scholars in the field have interpreted the relationship between culture, power, and history.

Reading

*States of Emergency: The Object of American Studies*, eds. Russ Castronovo and Susan Gillman(2009)

*Keywords for American Cultural Studies,* eds. Bruce Burgett and Glenn Hendler (2007)  
Tom Englehardt, *The End of Victory Culture: Cold War America and the Disillusioning of a Generation* (1995)  
Rob Nixon, *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor* (2011)  
Kirk Savage: *Standing Soldiers, Kneeling Slaves: Race, War, and Monument in Nineteenth-Century America* (1997)  
Nikhil Singh, *Black is a Country: Race and the Unfinished Struggle for Democracy* (2004)  
Laura Wexler, *Tender Violence: Domestic Visions in an Age of U.S. Imperialism* (2000)

Books for the course, as well as a course reader, can be purchased at Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue (at Bank St.). All essays marked with a \* are from *States of Emergency*. Those marked with a \*\* are in our course reader.

Viewing

John Frankenheimer, *The Manchurian Candidate* (1962)

Spike Lee, *When the Levees Broke* (2006)

Edward Zwick, *Glory* (1989)

Listening

Charles Mingus, *Mingus Ah Um* (1959)

JANUARY

7

Introduction

14

Kirk Savage, *Standing Soldiers, Kneeling Slaves*, Chs. 1-5

Abraham Lincoln, "Emancipation Proclamation" (January 1, 1863)

http://www.archives.gov

Frederick Douglass, "Men of Color to Arms" (March 21, 1863)

http://www.gilderlehrman.org

KEYWORDS: NATION, SLAVERY, ABOLITION

21

Nikhil Singh, *Black is a Country*, "Introduction: Civil Rights, Civic Myths"

\*\*David Blight, " 'Five Score Years Ago': Civil War and Civil Rights," from *American Oracle: The Civil War in the Civil Rights Era* (2011)

\*Kenneth Warren, "Taking Measure of the Black Atlantic" (from *States*)

Martin Luther King, "I Have a Dream" (1963)

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\_century/mlk01.asp

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smEqnnklfYs

KEYWORD: DEMOCRACY

28

Finish *Black is a Country*

KEYWORDS: AFRICAN, DIASPORA, RACE

FEBRUARY

4

\*\*Scott Saul, *Freedom Is, Freedom Ain't: Jazz and the Making of the Sixties* (2003), Introduction, Chs. 5 and 6

\*\*Leigh Raiford, *Imprisoned in a Luminous Glare: Photography and the African American Freedom Struggle* (2011), Introduction, Ch. 2

Brown v. Board of Education (1954)

http://www.nationalcenter.org/brown.html

Charles Mingus, *Mingus Ah Um* (1959)

KEYWORD: CULTURE

11

*Standing Soldiers, Kneeling Slaves*, Chs. 6 and 7

Edward Zwick, *Glory* (1989)

KEYWORD: CITIZENSHIP

18

WINTER BREAK

25

Tom Englehardt. *The End of Victory Culture*, Sections I and II ("War Story," and "Containments")

Dwight Eisenhower, "Farewell Speech" (1961)

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\_century/eisenhower001.asp

KEYWORDS: WAR, EXCEPTIONALISM, INDIAN

MARCH

4

*End of Victory Culture*, Section III ("The Era Reversals")

John Frankenheimer, *The Manchurian Candidate*

KEYWORDS: ASIAN, CAPITALISM

11

Laura Wexler, *Tender Violence*

KEYWORDS: DOMESTIC, GENDER, EMPIRE

18

\*Anne McClintock, "Paranoid Empire: Specters from Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib" (from *States*)

Susan Sontag, "Regarding the Torture of Others" (2004)

www.nytimes.com

\*\*Sherman Alexie, *The Sin Eaters* (2000)

KEYWORDS: INTERNMENT, STATE

25

Rob Nixon, *Slow Violence*, Introduction

\*Nan Enstad, "Toxicity and the Consuming Subject" (from *States*)

\*\*Priscilla Wald, "American Studies and the Politics of Life," American Studies Association Presidential Address (2011), and \*\*"Future Perfect: Grammar, Genes, and Geography" (2000)

KEYWORDS: BODY, IDENTITY

APRIL

1

Finish *Slow Violence*

KEYWORDS: GLOBALIZATION, ENVIRONMENT

8

Spike Lee, "When the Levees Broke"

\*Wai Chee Dimock, "World History according to Katrina" (from *States*)

\*Robert Levine, "American Studies in an Age of Extinction" (from *States*)

KEYWORD: AMERICA