

FILM 290 – 801 & 810 – Race, Ethnicity in US Film

Tue – 5:45-9:00pm

CDM Center, Room 708 & Online

Note: The first two meetings will occur remotely via Zoom – link to be emailed directly to enrolled students.

Prof. Raphael Nash

Office hours: Tue – 4-5:30pm, 14 EAS 200B, Online by appt.

Rnash3@cdm.depaul.edu

Course Description

From Minstrelsy to Memes, and everything in between.

Since the birth of cinema, films have assisted in forming viewers' perception of society, race relations and ethnic notions. As a late-19th century invention, American Cinema's development occurred during a time prone to racial intolerance, ignorance, exploitation, and fear. We will explore Hollywood's representation of African-American, Latinx, Muslim, and Asian-American groups, and more importantly, explore the socio-political contexts that support racial misrepresentation across the last two centuries. We will also examine films, filmmakers, scholars, and institutions that seek to challenge this discrepancy. We will inherently engage in discussions of race, racism, stereotypes, and bigotry. The dialogue this course creates should be one of understanding, fairness, and truth.

Course Work

Homework will consist of written responses to articles, films, television programs, and online material. Completed assignments will be posted to our class submissions area in D2L.

Quizzes will cover terminology and historical facts related to our topics.

The Mid-term will be a detailed breakdown of your final research project.

The Final Research Project will consist of research on a particular mode of misrepresentation in film, supported by the analysis of films, television shows, and online content within its scope. The project can be in the form of a 10-page research paper, 20-slide presentation, or 5-7 minute video.

Course Management System – D2L

Textbooks

Optional: *Media & Minorities: The Politics of Race in News and Entertainment*, Stephanie Greco Larson
ISBN: 9780847694532

Online reading material & resources will be given throughout the course.

Course Policies

- Attendance and class participation is mandatory
- Late assignments will not be accepted without permission

Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L and sent via email.

Grading

Writing Assignments: 25%

Quizzes: 30%

Mid-Term: 10%

Final: 25%

Participation: 10%

Week-by-week Assignments/Readings

Week 1: "The Birth of Misrepresentation "

Class overview, student introductions, and history of US entertainment.

Homework:

- Writing Assignment #1
- Read: Media and Minorities, Chapter 2 – "Racial Politics"

Week 2: "Holly-wouldn't"

Writing Assignment review, Black American representation in Cinema.

Screening and discussion of clips:

- "The Birth of a Nation", D.W. Griffith
- "Classified X", Melvin Van Peebles

Homework:

- Writing Assignment #2
- Read: Media and Minorities, Chapter 3 – "African Americans"

Week 3: "Towards Uncivil Rights"

Writing Assignment review, Race Films to Blaxploitation era.

Screening and discussion, clips from:

- Select Sidney Poitier & Civil Rights Era film clips
- "They've Gotta Have Us", Simon Frederick

Homework:

- Watch: "Baadasssss Cinema", Isaac Julien

Week 4: "Towards Uncivil Rights pt. 2"

Rise and Fall of the 'Blaxploitation' era

Screening and discussion, clips from:

- "Baadasssss Cinema", Isaac Julien
- "They've Gotta Have Us", Simon Frederick
- "Bamboozled", Spike Lee

Homework:

- Writing Assignment #3
- Read: "Media and Minorities", Chapter 4 – "Native Americans"

Quiz #1 Posted

Week 5: "Discovering the Native"

Native Communities, and Native American representation in Cinema.

Screening and discussion, clips from:

- "Avatar", James Cameron
- "Reel Injun", Neil Diamond
- "Reservation Dogs", Sterlin Harjo

Mid-Term prep.

Homework:

- Read: "Media and Minorities", Chapter 5 – "Hispanics (and Latino/x)"

Week 6: "Welcome to the Border"

Latino representation in Cinema, TV, and Animation.

Screening and discussion, clips from:

- "The Bronze Screen", De Los Santos, Dominguez, Racho

Mid-term Due & Check-In.

Homework:

- Read: "Media and Minorities", Chapter 6 – "Asian Americans"

Week 7: “Fu Manchu to Apu”

Middle Eastern, South and East Asian representation in Cinema, TV, and Animation.

Screening and discussion, clips from:

- “Asian Americans”, PBS
- “The Slanted Screen”, Jeff Adachi

Quiz #2

Week 8: “Fu Manchu to Apu pt. 2”

Middle Eastern, South and East Asian representation in Cinema, TV, and Animation.

Screening and discussion, clips from:

- “The Problem with Apu”, Hari Kondabolu

Homework:

- Read: “The White Savior Film”, Chapter 5

Week 9: “The White Savior Film”

Representations of White Heroes saving Tragic Non-Whites, Post 9/11 Themes

Screening and discussion, clips from:

- “Dangerous Minds”, John N. Smith
- “The Blind Side”, John Lee Hancock
- “The Help”, Tate Taylor
- “Crash”, Paul Haggis

Homework: Writing Assignment #4

Week 10: “Equity in the Making”

Review Writing Assignment, Equity and Diversity in Film Production.

Screening and discussion;

- “Saint Frances”, Thompson

Quiz #3

Writing Assignment #5 posted [Extra Credit]

Final (NO EXAM)

Final Research Projects Due & Presented

Tuesday, March 15th, 2022, from 5:45 PM to 9 PM

Online Course Evaluations

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online in [CampusConnect](#).

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>. If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

Academic Policies

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the [University Academic Calendar](#). Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at: cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment.

Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential.

To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: csd@depaul.edu.

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.

Phone number: (312)362-8002

Fax: (312)362-6544

TTY: (773)325.7296

COVID-19 Health and Safety Precautions

Keeping our DePaul community safe is of utmost importance in the pandemic. Students, faculty and staff are expected to (1) wear a mask as required at all times while indoors on campus; (2) refrain from eating and drinking in classrooms; (3) keep current with their COVID-19 vaccinations or exemptions; (4) stay home if sick; (5) participate in any required COVID-19 testing; (6) complete the online Health and Safety Guidelines for Returning to Campus training; and (7) abide by the City of Chicago Emergency Travel Advisory. By doing these things, we are Taking Care of DePaul, Together. The recommendations may change as local, state, and federal guidelines evolve. Students who do not abide by the mask

requirement may be subject to the student conduct process and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office. Students who have a medical reason for not complying with any requirements should register with DePaul's Center for Student with Disabilities (CSD).

Name & Gender Pronouns

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this information early in the quarter so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Please also note that students may choose to identify within the University community with a first name that differs from their legal name and may also update their gender. The first name will appear in University related systems and documents except where the use of the legal name is necessitated or required by University business or legal need. For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy at <http://policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332>