**Critical Mixed Race Studies in the Twenty-First Century**

**ETHN 0090B**

**Monday, 3:00-5:20 PM, Wilson 306**

Instructor: Alexandrina Agloro

Email: [Alexandrina\_Agloro@brown.edu](mailto:Alexandrina_Agloro@brown.edu)

Office Hours: Monday 12:30-2:30 PM or by appointment

**Course Overview:**

This course will guide students through an understanding of the historical, contemporary, and ideological rationale behind the constructions of mixed race, and how mixed race theory plays out in history, art, and contemporary media. This course aims to expand the conversations of mixed race beyond the stereotypes of tragic mulattos and happy hapas, instead interrogating what mixed race looks like in the twenty-first century and what historical precedents can explain current phenomena.

During weeks 5-9, our classroom will be participating in a multi-university online Mixed Race Initiative. Our classroom will be connected as one of many in a mixed race studies hub. Our course will share a curriculum of resources, including activities, writing prompts, and questions, and will participate in reflections and “flashpoints” generated by other students. This classroom will be part of communal comment boards, live chat sessions, podcasts, and possible inter-classroom email and Skype exchanges. The goal is a global conversation that builds academic and civic community. If histories and conceptions of multiracialism vary drastically from region to region, this program is a way to engage those differences and make sense of them together, to open a dialogue amongst students and faculty across the U.S. and beyond that challenges and grows our understandings of race and mixed race.

**Required Texts:**

Guevarra, Rudy. *Becoming Mexipino: Multiethnic Identities in San Diego.*

Dawkins, Marcia. *Clearly Invisible: Racial Passing and the Color of Cultural Identity.*

AALR Special Issue on Critical Mixed Race Studies

Weekly readings on Canvas

**Grade Breakdown:**

Participation (20%)

Blogging Assignment (15%)

Mixed Race Initiatives Assignments (15%)

Mixed Race Mash-Up: (20%)

Final Project: (30%)

**Class Attendance and Participation:**

Attendance and participation are requirements for passing this course. More than two unexcused absences will result in a grade penalty. Valid excuses include illness and religious observances. This class will be most successful, and you will get the most out of it, if we work together as a group. This means honest and thoughtful sharing of our ideas. The portion of your grade based on participation will reflect not how many times you speak in class, but how you share in developing a lively and respectful conversation. Thoughtful participation can take many forms—expressing your own ideas, asking a question, critiquing the day’s reading, drawing connections, and respectfully challenging the ideas of other students and the instructor.

**Blogging Assignment:** Contribute at least 250 words per week to your class blog. Posts can address current events related to mixed race studies, weekly topics from the reading, or responses to previous posts by your classmates.

**Mixed Race Initiative Assignments:** For four weeks, this course will participate in a multi-university digital initiative. Assignments will come from the MRI digital lab on the topics of war/militarization, mixed race feminism(s), transracial/transnational adoption, indigeneity & mestizaje, digital mixed race, and migration. Students will be able to choose and participate in the digital lab of their choice, and share back their experiences.

**Mixed Race Mash-Up:** Or, your midterm project. Compare two texts, videos, films, or media of your choice. These texts may be both about mixed race, or two separate texts on different races (i.e. one book on whiteness and one film on Mexican culture). Compare and contrast your texts in whatever way you like. You can choose to write a traditional 5-7 page paper, or create a remix video, blog site, audio podcast, or any media project of your choice. **Project proposals must be cleared by the instructor by week 5**. There will be a variety of media forms shown each week in class for project inspiration.

**Final Project:** This is your chance to shine! Select a topic of your choice that addresses some aspect of critical mixed race studies and craft a project in any format of your choosing. You can choose to write a 10-15 page essay, write a creative story about mixed race, write your family’s history, write a one act play, create a children’s book about mixed race, make a short film, narrate a photo-essay, build a website, record an album, or any project of your choosing. Group projects will be considered. **All final projects must be approved by the instructor by week 11**.

**Fair Use and Citation Guidelines**Brown University asserts that its use of media within courses is covered under Fair Use, since it is educational in nature. All projects created by students will need to consider copyright and fair use, and must include academically-appropriate citations in the form of a Works Cited section which covers all sources, in order to receive a passing grade. The Works Cited is either included in the project or as a separate document, as appropriate to your project.

**Statement on Academic Integrity**  
Brown University seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles.

## Statement for Students with Disabilities Please inform me if you have a disability or other condition that might require some modification of any of these course procedures. You may speak with me after class or during office hours. For more information contact Student and Employee Accessibility Services at [401-863-9588](tel:401-863-9588" \t "_blank) or SEAS@brown.edu

**Email**I check email regularly Monday-Friday, 9 AM-7 PM and intermittently on the weekends. Expect I will respond within 24 hours, if I don’t and it’s pressing, email me again. Students are responsible for reading and replying appropriately to emails sent from the instructor in a timely fashion. Please forward emails from your school email address to the one you check regularly- I will be emailing you at your school email address.

Facebook Policy: I do not accept friend requests from my students on Facebook while the course is in session. After the semester is over, you may friend request me (I will never request you- that crosses an inappropriate boundary), and I will add you, but on a limited profile view basis, as is appropriate for instructor/ student relationships.

Note: This syllabus is subject to revision at the discretion of the instructor.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1: Overviews of Critical Mixed Race Studies**

**9/9/13**

*review syllabus, questions, watch mixed race media*

* Maria P.P. Root: Glossary
* Maria P.P. Root: Bill of Rights For Racially Mixed People

**Week 2: Identity Formation**

**9/16/13**

* Markus and Moya: Doing Race
* Danny Senza: The Mulatto Millenium, in *Half and Half: Writers on Growing up Biracial and Bicultural*
* W.S.C. Poston: The Biracial Identity Model: A Needed Addition
* Rubén Martínez: Technicolor in *Half and Half: Writers on Growing up Biracial and Bicultural*

**Week 3: Interracial Dating and Love**

**9/23/13**

* Kimberly McClain DaCosta: Making Multiracial Families in *Making Multiracials: State, Family, and Market in the Redrawing of the Colorline*
* Diane Farr: His parents said, “Not with a white girl”

[*http://www.cnn.com/2011/LIVING/07/05/farr.mixed.race.couples/index.html?hpt=hp\_c2*](http://www.cnn.com/2011/LIVING/07/05/farr.mixed.race.couples/index.html?hpt=hp_c2)

* Jenny An: I’m an Asian Woman and I Refuse to Ever Date an Asian Man

http://www.xojane.com/it-happened-to-me/asian-woman-dating-asian-men-jenny-an

* Interracial Dating: Black Women Aren’t the Only Foes of Interracial Romance

<http://www.racialicious.com/2009/06/12/interracial-dating-black-women-aren%E2%80%99t-the-only-foes-of-interracial-romance/>

* Loving Day Website

<http://lovingday.org>

* Love/Fetish: Common Pitfalls of Interracial Dating

<http://possumstew.wordpress.com/2008/06/18/lovefetish-common-pitfalls-of-interracial-dating-part-ii/>

* Why I Don’t Date White People

<http://possumstew.wordpress.com/2008/08/24/why-i-dont-date-white-people/>

**Week 4: Mexipino History**

**9/30/13**

* Selections from: Rudy Guevarra- *Becoming Mexipino: Multiethnic Identities in San Diego*

**Week 5: Pandora’s Box**

***Mixed Race Mash-up Proposals Due***

**10/7/13**

*Mixed Race Initiative*

* Natasha Trethewey & W. Ralph Eubanks: “Enlightenment” and Time Present and Time Past
* Maya Soetoro-Ng & Alicia Upano: Piko / Crossings / Undulations / Ripple / Mo’o / Mauka
* Daniel McNeil & Leanne Taylor: Radical Love: A Transatlantic Dialogue about Race and Mixed-Race
* Lily Ann Yumi Welty & Tyrone Nagai: “Making” Mixed Race in Postwar Japan
* Craig Santos Perez, Grace Taylor, Tanya Chargualaf Taimanglo & Karlo Mila-Schaafon Mixed Race and the Arts in the Pacific

**Week 6: NO CLASS UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY**

**10/14/13**

**Week 7: Black Box**

**10/21/13**

***Mixed Race Mash-up Due!***

*Mixed Race Initiative*

* Michele Elam, Laura Kina, Jeff Chang & Ellen Oh: Beyond the Face: A Pedagogical Primer for Mixed-Race Art & Social Engagement
* Steven Riley & Glenn Robinson: The Impact of Internet Publishing and Online Communications on Mixed-Race Discourses
* Anna Kazumi Stahl & Karin Lanzoni: The Genogram Game
* Michelle LaFlamme & Minelle Mahtani: Mixed Messages
* Kip Fulbeck: Part Asian, 100% Hapa: A Retrospective
* Wei Ming Dariotis & Isabelle Thuy Pelaud: A Peace Both Delicious and Strange: EurAsian Women Teaching Asian American Studies
* Fanshen Cox: Creative Marginalia

*Sharing of Mixed Race Mash-Ups*

**Week 8: Sent: Digital Materials**

**10/28/13**

*Mixed Race Initiative*

* David Mura and Nikko Sencer-Mura: Hip Hop and Mixed Race Young People in the Twin Cities
* Rudy Guevarra: On Mexipino Foodways
* Robert Karimi: Taking Over the (Super)Market: An Audio Teleplay of an Unfinished Soap Opera/Telenovela Called San Pablo, MN
* Mei-mei Berssenbrugge, Patricia Clough, Kimiko Hahn, Jennifer Hayashida, Lynne Huffer, Joseph Jeon, Kyoo Lee & Russell Leong: MusingWith: Mei-mei Berssenbrugge
* Julie Thi Underhill & Alex Cho: Decolonizing Love

**Week 9: But I’m a light-skinned Latina! Colorism and the Mixed Race Community**

**11/4/13**

* Paul Spickard: The Power of Blackness: Mixed-Race Leaders and the Monoracial Ideal. In G. R. Daniel & P. R. Spickard (Eds.), *Racial thinking in the United States: Uncompleted independence*.
* Julia Alvarez: A White Woman of Color in *Half and Half: Writers on Growing up BiRacial and BiCultural*
* Yaba Blay- Colorism: The War at Home

http://www.ebony.com/news-views/colorism-the-war-at-home-405#axzz2d8CrvJw4

* Margaret Hunter: Light, Bright, Almost White: The Advantages and Disadvantages of Light Skin. In *Skin Deep: How Race and Complexion Matter in the “Color-Blind” Era*

**Week 10: Mestiza Consciousness**

**11/11/13**

* Gloria Anzaldúa: La consciencia de la mestiza: Towards a New Consciousness in *Borderlands/La Frontera*
* Selections from Cherríe Moraga: *Loving in the War Years*
* Cristina Garcia: Falling Sky in *Mixed: An Anthology of Short Fiction on the Multiracial Experience*

**Week 11: Mixed Race Futurism**

**11/18/13**

***Final Project Proposals Due!***

Watch: *Sleep Dealer*

* Alexandrina Agloro: Reading Cyborgs as an Ethnofuturist: Mixed Race Bodies in Speculative Fiction Futurism
* Catherine Ramirez: Afrofuturism/ Chicana Futurism
* John Calvert: Janelle Monae: A New Pioneer of Afrofuturism

http://thequietus.com/articles/04889-janelle-mon-e-the-archandroid-afrofuturism

* Donna Haraway: A manifesto for Cyborgs: Science Technology and Socialist Feminism in the 1980s. In L. Nicholson (Ed.), *Feminism/Postmodernism*

**Week 12: Things said in… Passing**

**11/25/13**

* Selections from: Marcia Dawkins: *Clearly Invisible*
* Michele Elam: Passing in the Post-Race Era: Danny Senza’s *Caucasia*, Phillip Roth’s *The Human Stain*, and Colson Whitehead’s *The Intuitionist*

**Week 13: Marketing Multiracials**

**12/2/13**

* Kimberly McClain DaCosta: Consuming Multiracials
* Alexis Garrett Stodghill: Beyonce L’Oreal Controversy Inspires Black Community Backlash

<http://thegrio.com/2012/02/10/beyonce-describes-herself-as-african-american-native-american-french-in-new-loreal-ad/#s:beyonce-skin-lightening-4-cover-jpg>

* The Future is Now: What PR Pros and Marketers Need to Know about the “Mixed Mindset”

<http://projectrace.blogspot.com/2012/10/marketing-to-multiracials.html>

* Kraft’s “mixed race” snack ad is all kinds of wrong

<http://workthatmatters.blogspot.com/2012/04/krafts-mixed-race-snack-ad-is-all-kinds.html>

* Joseph Harker: Beware this new mixed-race love-in

http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/oct/04/mixed-race-britain

**Week 14: Post-Racial America?**

**12/9/13**

***Final Presentations***

* Michele Elam: The “Ethno-Amibiguo Hostility Syndrome” of the “Halfrican American”: Mixed Race in Aaron McGruder’s The Boondocks and Nate Creekmore’s Maintaining
* Baratunde Thurston: How’s That Post-Racial Thing Working Out for Ya?
* Baratunde Thurston: The Future of Blackness

**Final Projects are due by email (if digital) and in person (if hard copy) on DECEMBER 17TH at 9 AM.**