

CRITICAL RACE THEORY

CENTER FOR WOMEN'S AND GENDER RESEARCH (SKOK)

UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN, NORWAY

FALL 2012 (9-11 OCTOBER 2012)

PROFESSOR DAVID L. ENG
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104, USA
<DENG@ENGLISH.UPENN.EDU>

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INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
PRINCETON, NJ 08540, USA
<DAVIDLENG@IAS.EDU>

DESCRIPTION This seminar is an introduction to Critical Race Theory (CRT). Emerging in the U.S. legal academy in 1980s, this field sought to employ critical theory for a radical critique of race, law, and power in U.S. politics and society. In opposition to conventional understandings of racial subordination as a deviation from liberal ideals, CRT analyzes the centrality of U.S. law in *producing* race and racial difference, as well as other social hierarchies such as gender, sexuality, and class. In this seminar, we will read a number of primary texts establishing the intellectual foundations of the field, primarily from the perspective of African Americans. In addition, we will reinterpret some key juridical acts (Constitutional cases and international treaties) through the lens of CRT and in relation to other racialized groups in the United States (Native Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans). The last part of our seminar will consider how to extend CRT usefully for an analysis of race, immigration, and cultural difference in Europe.

REQUIRED TEXTS Antony Anghie, "Francisco de Vitoria and the Colonial Origins of International Law," *Social & Legal Studies* 5 (1996): 321-336.
Kimberle Crenshaw, "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color," *Stanford Law Review* 43.6 (July 1991): 1241-1299.
Adrienne D. Davis, "The Private Law of Race and Sex: An Antebellum Perspective," *Stanford Law Review* 51.2 (January 1999): 221-288.
Éric Fassin and Judith Surkis, "Introduction: Transgressing Boundaries," *Public Culture* 22.3: 487-505.
Cheryl I. Harris, "Whiteness as Property," *Harvard Law Review* 106.8 (June 1993): 1709-1791.
Lisa Lowe, "The Intimacies of Four Continents," in *Haunted by Empire: Geographies of Intimacy in North American History*, ed. Ann Laura Stoler (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006), 191-212.
Tayyab Mahmud, "International Law and the 'Race-ed' Colonial Encounter," *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law* 91 (9-12 April 1997): 414-420.
Mathias Möschel, "Race in Mainland European Legal Analysis: Toward a European Critical Race Theory," *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 34.10 (October 2011): 1648-1664.
María-Josefina Saldaña-Portillo, "'Wavering on the Horizon of Social Being': The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo and the Legacy of Its Racial Character in Ámerico Paredes's *George Washington Gómez*," *Radical History Review* 89 (2004): 135-64.
Joan Wallach Scott, "Introduction" and "The Headscarf Controversies," in *The Politics of the Veil* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007), 1-41.
Leti Volpp, "The Citizen and the Terrorist." *UCLA Law Review* 49 (2002): 1575-1599.

LEGAL TEXTS The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo (1848)
Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)

FILM *Dirty Pretty Things*, dir. Stephen Frears (2002)

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COURSE OUTLINE

9 October Introduction: CRT and African Americans

(10:00-12:00)

Harris, "Whiteness as Property"

(14:00-16:00)

Davis: "Private Law"

Crenshaw, "Mapping the Margins"

10 October

Intersectionality: Native Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans

(10:00-12:00)

The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo (1848)

Saldana, "Wavering"

(14:00-16:00)

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)

Lowe, "Intimacies"

Screening: *Dirty Pretty Things*

11 October

CRT in Europe

(10:00-12:00)

Anghie, "Francisco de Vitoria"

Mahmud, "International Law"

Möschel, "Race in Mainland European"

Volpp, "Citizen and Terrorist"

(14:00-16:00)

Fassin and Surkis, "Introduction"

Scott, *The Politics of the Veil*