

RHETORIC 152AC Syllabi Fall 2014

Week/Title	Date	Materials	Film Clips
Week No. 1 Dilemma: In search of American Identity	Th 8-28-14	The course as an analysis of American culture. What is American culture? Methodology: historical method of "Thick Description" as archeology of the past. The role of trauma and victimization in America: The immigrant/non-Native story. Immigration as a current issue in America	Disk No. 128 <i>Batman Begins</i> - Symbolic search for Amer Identity; Com. Disk/Disk No. 92 <i>King Kong-2005</i> 01-03 Outcasts, wilderness, fear, savagery.
Week No. 2 A Nation of victims? Immigraton & Trauma	Tu 9-02-14	Trauma and culture: Jeffrey Alexander, "Toward a Theory of Cultural Trauma" and Neil Smelser, "Psychological and Cultural Trauma"; Reader ; "When Immigration is Trauma", Rose-Marie Perez Foster, "American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 2001", pp. 153-159; Reader ; "Healing the Hurt"; prepared by Drexel University School of Public Health and School of Medicene, 2009; Reader	Disk No. 205 [Holocaust as origins of trauma studies]; Disk No. 195 <i>Castaway</i> [American abandonment], Disk No. 30 <i>A Perfect Storm</i> [American abandonment and isolation]; Disk No. 16 <i>Wizard of Oz</i> "No Place Like Home",
Week No. 2	Th 9-04-14	Excerpt from <i>Unnatural Selection</i> , Mara Hvistendahl [pp. 197-215; "The Bachelor"] Excerpt from <i>The</i>	Com Disk ("Far and Away") 3 rd Estate; Commercial Disk "My Fair Lady"-- "Ascot " Disk 305 ; Manhood 1-

European Americans as Strangers in a New World

Fatal Environment, Richard Slotkin in **Reader**; excerpt from Chapter 2, *William Cooper's Town* in **Reader**; James Fenimore Cooper, *The Pioneers*, Chapters 1-12,

3; [what constitutes American manhood?] **[hold Thurs night/Fri for potluck/film]**

Week No. 3

Tu 9-09-14

Lee Clark Mitchell, *Westerns*, in the **Reader**; D. H. Lawrence, *Studies in Classic American Literature*; and excerpt from *Power and Ideology in American Sport*, pp. 104-111 in the **Reader**;

Disk No. 204 Buffalo Bill [Western Myth]; **Com. Disk** "High Noon"[The Western]; **Disk No. 181** "Diehard" **Disk No. 01** "Terminator II"[myth of the self-made man-making virtue out of despair—discuss in conjunction with Lawrence] [violence & American identity]; **Com. Disk** "American Psycho"

European Americans as Strangers in a New World

Week No. 3

Th 9-11-14

James Fenimore Cooper, *The Pioneers*, (Chap 13-22); excerpt Richard Slotkin, *Regeneration Through Violence* in the **Reader** James Fenimore Cooper, *The Pioneers*, (Chap 23-35);

Com. Disk *Casablanca*; **Disk No. 32** *Do the Right Thing*['rhetoric of opposites' in another form] The Western as America's cultural methodology; **Disk No. 94** "Dodge Ball" [rhetoric of opposites]; **Disk No. 7** Newshour: "Polarized America"

European Americans as Strangers in a New World

Week No. 4	Tu 9-16-14	James Fennimore Cooper, <i>The Pioneers</i> , (Chap 36-41)	Commercial Disk: A & E's "Hollywood: An Empire of Their Own" [using art to create reality] Disk No. 245 <i>Rush Hour 2</i>
Cooper as National Myth Maker			
Week No. 4	Th 9-18-14	William Carlos Williams, "The Destruction of Tenochtitlan" from <i>In the American Grain</i> p. 27-38 Reader ; Drinnon, from <i>Facing West</i> pp. 35-61 "The Pequot War" and "Legacy of the War" Reader	Commercial Disk "Last Stand at Little Big Horn" <i>The American Experience</i> [Hold Thurs/Fri night for potluck/film]
Native Americans as Strangers in their Home Land			
Week No. 5	Th 9-23-14	Joel Martin, from <i>Sacred Revolt</i> pp. 1-69 Reader	Com. Disk <i>Walt Disney's Pocahontas</i> [chapters 14-15 on the disk; romantic racialism]; Disk No. 247 <i>Avatar</i> [wish fulfillment];
Native Americans as Strangers in their Home Land			
Week No. 5	Th 9-25-14	Joel Martin, from <i>Sacred Revolt</i> pp. 69-113 Reader	Disk No. 92: <i>American Bio</i> [dispossession of Native

Native Americans as Strangers in their Home Land

Amer] **Disk No. 102** "Conquest of Hawaii"; **Disk No. 272** *Big Bang Theory*-Gift Giving; **Disk No. 259** *Lakota Stories*; **Disk No. 260** "Gift Giving";

Midterm distributed

Week No. 6

Tu 9-30-14

Native America and the myth of American Exceptionalism; contrasting reciprocity and balance to concentration camps: "Inside America's Concentration Camps" and "Hitler's Inspiration-Native American Holocaust"; **Reader**

Disk No. 21 *Curtis and the American Indians* [Hist. value]

Native Americans as Strangers in their Home Land

Week No. 6

Tu 10-02-14

"Goodbye to the Bison" (N.Y. Review of Books 4-27-00), "Buffaloed" (The New Yorker 9-13-99), "Chopping Down the Sacred Tree" (N.Y. Review of Books 4-22-99), "The Myth of an Empty Frontier" (S.F. Chron 8-14-05) **Reader**

Disk No. 32 *Dances With Wolves* [selection **02**"Native/white encounter"]; **Disk No. 32** *Dances With Wolves* ["Gift Exchange"]

From Native American to Native Son

Week No. 7	Tu 10-07-14	Gift Giving & Praxis and the Busk/Discussion of Sacred Revolt—versus trauma	"Lost Dream of Social Reconciliation"); Disk No. 32 <i>Dances With Wolves</i> ["Buffalo Hunt" and "End of the Buffalo"]
Reciprocity vs. Cultural Trauma			
Week No. 7	Th 10-09-14	"Incorporation" and "Removal" Reader ;	Disk No. 192 "Homeland" [contemp. Native America]; Disk No. --- the story of Jim Thorpe
Cultural Trauma Prevails			
Week No. 8	Tu 10-14-14	Frederick Douglas, <i>My Bondage, My Freedom</i> (Chap 1-7); "Family Matters" (New Yorker); Reader	Disk No. 75 "Amistad" (triangular trade); Disk No. 165 "1776" [slavery];
Africans as Strangers in a Strange Land			
Week No. 8	Th 10-16-14	Frederick Douglas, <i>My Bondage, My Freedom</i> (Chap 8, 12-13, 15-17; Winthrop Jordan, <i>White Over Black</i> , pp. 128-141 Reader	Disk No. 139 "Eyes on the Prize"-01; Disk No. 2-- "Birth of a Nation"
Africans as Strangers in a Strange Land			

Week No. 9	Tu 10-21-14	Frederick Douglas, <i>My Bondage, My Freedom</i> (Chap 18, 20-25); S.F. Chronicle, Aug. 23-2014 "...Anti Japanese Crusade in S.F."	Disk No. 29 <i>Unforgiveable Blackness</i> [Intro]; Disk No. 139 "Eyes on the Prize"-02 Emmitt Till
Africans as Strangers in a Strange Land			
Week No. 9	Th 10-23-14	"Lincoln's Black History" (N.Y. Review of Books) Reader ;	Disk No. 131 <i>The Green Mile</i> [Magic Negro-white redemption]; Disk No. 176 "The magic Negro" NewsCom. Disk <i>Sister Act</i> ;
The Analysis			
Week No. 10	Tu 10-28-14	"Envisioning Race" pp. 27-40 from <i>Photography on the Color Line</i> , Reader ; "Invisible Black America" N.Y. Rev. of Books, March 10, 2011.	Film clip Disk No. 163 "Bamboozled" [myth of the happy slave]; Disk No. 139 "Eyes on the Prize"-03 <i>Bus Boycott</i> ;
Week No. 10	Th 10-30-14	"White Nationalism: 'Free Soil' and the Ideal of Racial Homogeneity")pp. 97-129 and 130-	Disk No. 6 <i>The King and I</i> [Uncle Tom's Cabin scene],(romantic racialism); Disk No. 71 <i>Flower Drum</i>

164; **Reader** and Frederickson, *The Black Image in the White Mind* ("Uncle Tom and the Anglo-Saxons: Romantic Racialism in the North")

Reader

Paper Assignment

Week No. 11

Tu 11-04-14

Excerpt-*Huckleberry Finn As Idol and Target*, pp. 16-39;**Reader**; Mark Twain, *Huckleberry Finn*, Chap 1-15

Disk No. 12 *Mark Twain* No. 1-Intro; No. 2 and No. 3 [a man divided, and a man in limbo]

In Search of Middle Ground

Week No. 11

Th 11-06-14

Mark Twain, *Huckleberry Finn*, Chap 16-31

Disk No. 19 *Enemy Mine* [in search of social reconciliation]

In Search of Middle Ground

Week No. 12

Tu 11-11-14

Mark Twain, *Huckleberry Finn*, Chap 32-42; (SF Chron)

Film clip **Disk No. 12** *Mark Twain* No. 7 [the genius of *Huckleberry Finn*];

Week No. 12	Th 11-13-14	Between two worlds: Mark Twain	Disk No. 160 "Ali" [White Amer. vs. Ali---recall Jack Johnson, Joe Louis]
In Search of Middle Ground or stuck in Limbo?			
Week No. 13	Tu 11-18-14	"Tips for Getting Over the Brokeback Hump" (S.F. Chron); Reader; Fiedler, "Come Back to the Raft Ag'in Huck Honey!" pp. 142-151; "Hawaii Coach'es Gay Slur" et. al.; "Too Hot to Handle"; "Her Story" (NY Review of Books); Reader	Disk No. 3 <i>Gentlemen Prefer Blondes</i> [mirror images: pedestal and denial—recall falling into 3 rd Estate]; Disk No. 198 ; "Rules of Engagement" [male identity in America]
Fear of Change and inclusion			
Week No. 13	Th 11-20-14	Herman Melville, <i>Moby Dick</i> , Chap 1-13, 17-19, 26-29; Excerpt from John P. McWilliams, Jr., <i>Hawthorne, Melville and the American Character</i> ,Chapter 6 in Reader ; Book Review by Michael Vannoy Adams, "Melville as Social Realist".	Disk No. 167/35/250: <i>Trading Places</i> [Melville exchanges Queequeg & Ishmael] Disk No.--- ["Mississippi Masala"]
In Search of Social Reconciliation			

Week No. 14	Tu 11-25-14	Herman Melville, <i>Moby Dick</i> , Chap 34, 36, 41, 42, 46, 51, 54, 64-66, 71-72, 79, 81, 83, 85-87	Disk No. 153/176 <i>Lee Atwater</i> Disk No. 190 <i>Bernie Madoff</i> [Captain Ahab and obsession with validation]; Disk No. 20 ; Disk No. 192 "Amer. Kings"
From Romance to Reality			
Week No. 14	Th 11-27-14	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	Enjoy your holiday and catch up with your reading
Week No. 15	Tu 12-02-14	Herman Melville, <i>Moby Dick</i> , Chap, 89, 91, 93-95, 100, 109-110, 115, 123	Disk No. 105: <i>Gone With the Wind</i> (contrast Melville's vision with MGM's); Disk No. 194 "Windsor Castle" [what Americans want]
Iceberg Dead Ahead			
Week No. 15	Th 12-04-14	Herman Melville, <i>Moby Dick</i> , Chap, 126, 128, 129, 131, 132-135, Epilogue; Channing, <i>Crisis of Fear</i> "The Fear" pp. 17-93	<i>Invasion From Mars</i> , Disk No. 39: <i>Forbidden Planet</i> ; Disk No. 48: <i>The Blob</i> ; Com Disk <i>Moby Dick</i> , [end of the 1956 film]; <i>Invasion of the Body</i>

Disaster

Snatchers [5th columnist pods]; *Invasion* [remake];

R & R Week

Tu 12-09-14 "Open Discussion:---the search for authority; **Closing Remarks**

Commercial Disk, "*Star Wars-The Empire Strikes Back*" [Luke finds the whale in his Father-recall King Kong]; **Distribute Final Exam**

Managing Trauma in America:

Review Session

Class,

I have placed two dates on the syllabus for potential film nights/potluck dinners. They are either Thursday or Friday night September 4 or 5, and Thursday or Friday night September 18 or 19.

If you take the class, hold these two dates.

Nad Permaul

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