Department of International History
Academic year 2019-2020

An International History of Racism

HI123 - Spring - 6 ECTS
Monday 12:15-14:00
Room S4

Course Description

This course examines the international history of the issue of racism. Tracing the phenomenon’s evolution in the modern era, it addresses the questions of definition, manifestation, representation and socioeconomic and political underpinnings of racism. The approach blends an investigation and analysis of racism per se and examinations of its articulation, and responses or lack thereof to it, in different settings round the world, featuring the involvement of various actors, communities and ideologies. The course aims to provide students with a comprehensive international history of racism and to enhance their critical ability to understand and analyse cogently the question of racism – then, now and in a forward-looking perspective.

Syllabus

This course is an international survey of the history of racism.

The active participation of students in class discussion is expected, and will be an important element in the determination of their final grade.

The main assignment is an individual research paper which will count for 75% of the grade. The term paper should be approximately 4,000 words, footnotes included, or 20 pages long (12 point font, double-spaced), with proper citations and a bibliography. The paper should put forth a cogent argument examining analytically and historically an issue. The paper may discuss any particular aspect of the course themes.
Students are invited to select a topic for their paper and submit an outline no later than Session Seven (30 March).

Please make an appointment with the professors if you have questions or would like to discuss research topics. The completed term paper is due at the course’s last session (25 May).

The overall grade received in this class will be distributed as follows:

- Research paper: 75%
- Class participation: 25%

Readings

For each session, there will be three (3) required readings. Although the readings will not necessarily be directly discussed in class, students are expected to familiarise themselves ahead of the class with all the readings as background of the context of each session’s scheduled issues and the course’s overall themes. Other readings will be referenced in class as well.

Please note that this syllabus is subject to change, and that specific sessions may be rescheduled to meet unavoidable commitments on the part of the professors. Should that be the case, students will be informed ahead of time and proper rescheduling arrangements made promptly.

If you have a special condition that requires accommodation in this course, let the professors know after class or in office hours during the first week of class. They will be happy to consider appropriate accommodations provided timely notice is received and the arrangement is consistent with the Graduate Institute's policies and regulations.

Session One (February 17): Racism and international history

Issues:
- Why study racism?
- What is racism?
- How can the issue(s) be examined historically, globally and internationally?

Readings:

Session Two (February 24): Racisms: Afrophobia, Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, Anti-Romanyism, Xenophobia

Issues:
- Is it racism or racisms?
- What have been the major historical trends of racism?
- What differences and commonalities exist between Afrophobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and the various forms of racism?

Readings:
- Charles de Miramon, “Noble Dogs, Noble Blood: The Invention of the Concept of Race in the Late Middle Ages”, in Miriam Eliav-Feldon, Benjamin Isaac and Joseph


### Session Three (March 2): Colonialism and Racism

**Issues:**
- Is racism inherent to colonialism?
- Historical trends, moments and periodisation
- Different colonial empires, different times, same (or different) racisms

**Readings:**

### Session Four (March 9): Empire and Racism

**Issues:**
- How do empire and racism relate?
- Is imperialism inherently racist?
- What historical patterns can we discern?

**Readings:**

### Session Five (March 16): Racism and Humanitarianism

**Issues:**
- What shapes do racism and humanitarianism take over time?
- How do we ascertain the visible and the invisible in humanitarianism?
- Is non-Western Humanitarianism racist?

**Readings:**
- Christopher B. Taylor, “Receipts and Other Forms of Islamic Charity: Accounting for Piety in Modern North India”, *Modern Asian Studies*, 52, 1, 2018, pp. 266-296.
- *Fatal Assistance*, documentary film by Raoul Peck, 2010
Session Six (March 23): Racism and Development

Issues:
- How do the notions of development and development studies relate to racism?
- What continuities, if any, exist between colonialism and development?
- How has the contemporary discourse of development dealt with the question of racism?

Readings:

Session Seven (March 30): The Political Economy of Racism

PAPER TOPICS AND OUTLINE DUE

Issues:
- What can be identified as the socioeconomics of racism?
- How are these engineered and how do they evolve historically?
- What impact do such constructions and patterns have on societies?

- Documentary: The 13th (2014) documentary film by Ava DuVernay, 100 minutes.

Readings:

Session Eight (April 6): Space, Geography and Racisms

Issues:
- How does racism manifest itself in spaces and geographies?
- What is the relationship between ghettoisation, segregation and racial discrimination?
- How has this dimension evolved historically?

Readings:

*Spring Break – no classes on 13 April*

**Session Nine (April 20): National Security and Racism**

**Issues:**
- What is the relationship between ‘national security’ and racism?
- What have been the dominant traits of this relationship, and who/what has been driving them?
- How do securitisation and racialisation intersect contemporaneously, and with what implications?

**Readings:**

**Session Ten (27 April): International Relations and Racism**

**Issues:**
- How is racism present in social sciences?
- How has the history of international relations manifested racism?
- What are the contemporary implications of this history of academia?

**Readings:**

**Session Eleven (4 May): International Law and Racism**

**Issues:**
- What connections exist between international law and racism?
- What are the interconnections between minorities, mandates and the issue of ‘civilisation’?
- What place does racism occupies in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

Session Twelve (11 May):

**International Health and Racism**

**Issues:**
- What do the experiences of the Rockefeller Foundation and the American South tell us about health and race?
- Are there racial underpinnings to the World Health Organization (WHO) campaigns?
- How is the issue of global health and racism playing out contemporaneously?

**Readings:**

Session Thirteen (18 May):

**Globalisation and Racism**

**Issues:**
- Is there a ‘colour line’ underwriting globalisation and, if so, what does it mean?
- How does current populism relate to racism?
- How does racism ‘travel’?

**Readings:**

Session Fourteen (25 May):

**Conclusions**

FINAL RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

**Issue:**
- Review of course issues
Further Reading and Research Resources

The sources of print and electronic information below may be useful to the students in the preparation of their research papers, and for further reflection on the issues discussed in class.

Books and articles


Rotem Kowner, Race and Racism (in Modern Japan), Chapter 7, 92-102


Wilson, Ernest J. “Why Political Scientists Don’t Study Black Politics, but Historians and Sociologists Do?”, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 18, 3, 1985, pp. 600-607


**Documentaries and films**

*I Am Not Your Negro*, directed by Raoul Peck, 2016

*Reel Bad Arabs*, directed by Sut Jhally, 2006

*The Yellow Star*, directed by Dieter Hilderbrandt, 1980