

**Professor Alyosha Goldstein**

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Office Hours: Wed. 2-4pm

Thursday 1:00-3:30pm

Ortega 313

In recent years, the field of American Studies has increasingly been confronted with the challenge of examining its own analytic boundaries and presumptions. Likewise, scholars concerned with the applications of poststructuralism and critical theory have begun to more directly address the material historical conditions that animate their inquires into discourse and power. One of the most generative and provocative arenas for the intersection of these projects has arguably been the exploration of U.S. social and political history through the lens of Postcolonial studies. By foregrounding the imperial cartographies that have produced “domestic dependent nations” and “unincorporated territories,” as well as examining what one historian has characterized as “empire as a way of life,” we will pursue multiple points of entry towards the deconstruction of “America.” Without embracing the problematic designation of the U.S. as postcolonial, this course provides a background in the theories and histories relevant to understanding current developments in American Studies and Postcolonial critique.

Course Requirements

**Student Participation** (50% of final grade)

This seminar involves thoughtful and active participation in class discussion. You are thus expected to complete all reading assignments before seminar each class and come to class prepared for discussion with questions and comments.

Each week you are required to email me two to three synthetic questions that engage the issues and debates addressed in the reading. These questions should target key aspects of the reading that you would like to discuss further in class. Your questions must be emailed to me by 10pm Wednesday.

Each week one to two students will provide a 10 minute presentation contextualizing the readings for that class (describing a brief intellectual genealogy and outlining the main arguments of the readings). Presenters should plan to pose questions that will provide a point of departure for the class discussion of the readings.

**Paper proposal / abstract** (10% of final grade) / **Final paper** (40% of final grade)

Students will be expected to submit a research proposal with a preliminary list of primary and secondary sources by February 16th.

Final drafts are due at the beginning of the last day of class (May 4<sup>th</sup>). Papers should be 20-25 pages, not including bibliography, and formatted in accordance with the guidelines specified in the current edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*.

### Course Readings

\*\*All readings noted with [R] are available and downloadable through the UNM eReserves at <http://ereserves.unm.edu/courseindex.asp> (the password for the course is "lobo518").

The following books are available for purchase at the UNM Bookstore:

- Sibylle Fischer, Modernity Disavowed: Haiti and the Cultures of Slavery in the Age of Revolution
- Ania Loomba *et al.*, eds., Postcolonial Studies and Beyond
- Amritjit Singh and Peter Schmidt, eds., Postcolonial Theory and the United States: Race, Ethnicity, and Literature
- Walter D. Mignolo, Local Histories/Global Designs: Coloniality, Subaltern Knowledges, and Border Thinking
- John C. Hawley, ed., Postcolonial, Queer: Theoretical Intersections
- David Kazanjian, The Colonizing Trick: National Culture and Imperial Citizenship in Early America
- Amy Kaplan, The Anarchy of Empire in the Making of U.S. Culture
- Andrea Smith, Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide
- Emma Pérez, The Decolonial Imaginary: Writing Chicanas into History
- Taiaiake Alfred, Wasáse: Indigenous Pathways of Action and Freedom
- Ronald Niezen, The Origins Of Indigenism: Human Rights And The Politics Of Identity

### Academic Honesty

Cite all sources in your paper. Any language or other material presented in your paper without quotation marks or citation must be your own work. "Academic dishonesty,...(includes, but is not limited to)... dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or work done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure of misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records." (*Pathfinder, Student Code of Conduct, 2.4*). The American Studies Department supports this policy. If you're found guilty of academic dishonesty, you will receive an "F" for the class and be reported to the Dean of Students.

### Students With Disabilities

Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact me early in the semester so that we may decide what accommodations should be made.

Week One | 1/19

- Introduction

Week Two | 1/26

- Amy Kaplan, “‘Left Alone with America’: The Absence of Empire in the Study of American Culture,” in Cultures of United States Imperialism, eds. Amy Kaplan and Donald Pease (Duke University Press, 1993) [R]
- Gesa Mackenthun, “America’s Troubled Postcoloniality: Some Reflections from Abroad,” *Discourse* 22:3 (Fall 2000) [R]
- Ann Laura Stoler, “Tense and Tender Ties: The Politics of Comparison in North American History and (Post) Colonial Studies” and responses by Ramón A. Gutiérrez, Lori D. Ginzberg, Dirk Hoerder, Mary A. Renda, Robert J. McMahon, *Journal of American History* 88:3 (December 2001). [R]

Week Three | 2/2

- Frederick Cooper, “The Rise and Fall of Colonial Studies, 1951-2000” and “States, Empires, and Political Imagination,” in Colonialism in Question: Theory, Knowledge, History (University of California Press, 2005) [R]
- Sibylle Fischer, “Truncations of Modernity,” in Modernity Disavowed: Haiti and the Cultures of Slavery in the Age of Revolution (Duke University Press, 2004).
- Ania Loomba *et al.*, eds., Postcolonial Studies and Beyond (Duke University Press, 2005) [Introduction and essays by Brennan, Comaroff, Ferguson, Nixon, Mallon, and Stein]

Week Four | 2/9

- Amritjit Singh and Peter Schmidt, eds., Postcolonial Theory and the United States: Race, Ethnicity, and Literature (University Press of Mississippi, 2000) [Introduction and essays by Krupat, Pérez-Torres, Peterson, Flores, and Salazar]

Week Five | 2/16

- Dipesh Chakrabarty, “A Small History of *Subaltern Studies*,” in Habitations of Modernity: Essays in the Wake of Subaltern Studies (University of Chicago Press, 2002). [R]
- Gayatri Spivak, “Can the Subaltern Speak?,” in Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture, eds. Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg (University of Illinois Press, 1988) [R]
- Dipesh Chakrabarty, Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference (Princeton University Press, 2000), 27-46, 97-113. [R]
- Ileana Rodríguez, “Reading Subalterns Across Texts, Disciplines, Theories: From Representation to Recognition,” in The Latin American Subaltern Studies Reader, ed. Ileana Rodríguez (Duke University Press, 2001). [R]

Week Six | 2/23

- Anibal Quijano, “The Coloniality of Power, Eurocentrism, and Latin America,” *Nepantla* 1: 3 (2000) [R]
- Kelvin Santiago-Valles, “‘Race,’ Labor, ‘Women’s Proper Place,’ and the Birth of Nations: Notes on Historicizing the Coloniality of Power,” *CR: The New Centennial Review* 3:3 (Fall 2003) [R]
- Ana Margarita Cervantes-Rodriguez and Amy Lutz, “Coloniality of Power, Immigration, and the English-Spanish Asymmetry in the United States,” *Nepantla* 4: 3 (2003) [R]
- Fernando Coronil, “Beyond Occidentalism: Toward Nonimperial Geohistorical Categories,” *Cultural Anthropology* 11:1 (1996) [R]

[ *These readings are also available via Project Muse – <http://muse.jhu.edu> ]*

Week Seven | 3/2

- Walter D. Mignolo, Local Histories/Global Designs: Coloniality, Subaltern Knowledges, and Border Thinking (Princeton University Press, 2000)

Week Eight | 3/9

- John C. Hawley, ed., Postcolonial, Queer: Theoretical Intersections (State University of New York Press, 2001)

Week Nine | 3/16

[ Spring Break ]

Week Ten | 3/23

- David Kazanjian, The Colonizing Trick: National Culture and Imperial Citizenship in Early America (University of Minnesota Press, 2003)

Week Eleven | 3/30

- Amy Kaplan, The Anarchy of Empire in the Making of U.S. Culture (Harvard University Press, 2002)
- Anders Stephanson, “Imperial Pursuits” (review of Anarchy of Empire...), *Diplomatic History* 28:4 (September 2004) [R]

Week Twelve | 4/6

- Andrea Smith, Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide (South End Press, 2005)

Week Thirteen | 4/13

- Emma Pérez, The Decolonial Imaginary: Writing Chicanas into History (Indiana University Press, 1999)

Week Fourteen | 4/20

- Taiaiake Alfred, Wasáse: Indigenous Pathways of Action and Freedom (Broadview Press, 2005)
- Taiaiake Alfred, "Sovereignty," in A Companion To American Indian History, eds. Philip J. Deloria And Neal Salisbury (Blackwell, 2002) [R]
- Jennifer Nez Denetdale, "Chairmen, Presidents, and Princesses: The Navajo Nation, Gender, and the Politics of Tradition," *Wicazo Sa Review* (forthcoming, 2006) [R]

Week Fifteen | 4/27

- Ronald Niezen, The Origins Of Indigenism: Human Rights And The Politics Of Identity (University of California Press, 2003)
- Mahmood Mamdani, "Beyond Settler and Native as Political Identities: Overcoming the Political Legacy of Colonialism," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 43:4 (October 2001) [R]
- Duane Champagne, "Rethinking Native Relations with Contemporary Nation-States," in Indigenous Peoples and the Modern State, eds. Duane Champagne, Karen Jo Torjesen, and Susan Steiner (AltaMira Press, 2005). [R]
- Optional: Kathy Seton, "Fourth World Nations in the Era of Globalisation: An Introduction to Contemporary Theorizing Posed by Indigenous Nations," *Fourth World Journal* 4:1 (August 1999) [R]

\* ***Andrea Smith lecture at UNM [5:30-7:00pm SUB Lobo A&B]***

Week Sixteen | 5/4

- Conclusion / course wrap-up