

Nina Cornyetz
 Office Hours:
 Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30-4:30
 Mondays, 3:00-6:00
 And by appointment only
 Mondays, 11-3

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Syllabus Fall 2008

Imagining Identity and Difference
 First Year Seminar K10.0031
 Tues and Thurs 2:00-3:15, 715 B'way, 601

Course Description:

Generally, people identify themselves as belonging to a certain community. We will ask, how are these communities constructed and imagined? Exploring various representations of community in Europe, The United States and Asia, we will consider what people mean when they talk about “belonging” to a nation, an ethnic group, a culture. How do we define ourselves as subjects within those communities? Conversely, how do we imagine outsiders, foreigners, outcasts, that is, the “Other”? Combining philosophic, anthropological, psychoanalytic, and historical treatments of race, community, subjectivity and ethnicity, we will explore constructs of individual and cultural identity and difference. Readings may include: Benedict Anderson, Freud, Marx, Edward Said.

Course requirements:

Attendance, Participation	25%
Formal Papers (2)	40%
Student Presentations	10%
Assignments (response papers)	25%

Students are required to bring a copy of the assigned readings to class.

Required Books:

For sale at Bluestockings, 172 Allen Street between Stanton and Rivington – (1 block south of Houston and 1st Avenue)

Also on reserve at Bobst Library

1. Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. New York and London: Verso, 1983.
2. Foucault, Michel. *History of Sexuality, I*. New York: Pantheon, 1978
3. Freud, Sigmund. *The Ego and The Id*. James Strachey, ed. New York: W.W. Norton, 1960.

4. Solomon, Robert C. *Continental Philosophy since 1750: The Rise and Fall of the Self*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988.

Additional readings are in photocopies available for downloading from Blackboard. Below full citation information on these essays/excerpts are listed in the order in which we will read them.

Foucault, Michel. "The Body of the Condemned," in *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (New York: Vintage, 1977), 3-31. (original published in 1975)

Foucault, Michel. "Preface," *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences* (New York: Vintage, 1970), excerpt, xv-. (original published in 1966)

Renan, Ernest, "What is a Nation?" in Homi K. Bhabha, ed., *Nation and Narration* (London: Routledge, 1990), 8-22. (Original lecture in 1882)

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. "Preface," Appendix in Angela Scholar, trans. *Confessions* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), 643-649. (written beginning in the 1760s)

Spade, Paul Vincent. Excerpts from class notes on Sartre, "Sartre's Metaphysics," "Characteristics of Being-In-Itself," "Being-For-Itself," and "Positional and Non-Positional Consciousness," and "Part II: Being-For-Itself," 72-92, 166-171, from <http://pvspade.com/Sartre/pdf/sartre1.pdf>

Sartre, Jean-Paul. "The Look" in Hazel E. Barnes, trans. *Being and Nothingness: A Phenomenological Essay on Ontology* (New York: Washington Square Press, 1956), 340-400.

Spade, Paul Vincent. Excerpts from class notes on Sartre, "The Look," 211-220. <http://pvspade.com/Sartre/pdf/sartre1.pdf>

Althusser, Louis, "Ideology and the State," in Ben Brewster, trans. *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays* (London: New Left Review, 1971), 123-173.

Marx, Karl. "The Fetishism of the Commodity," in *Capital I*. (London: Penguin, 1976.) 163-177. (Original final version completed in 1866-67)

Haug, Wolfgang. *Critique of Commodity Aesthetics* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1986) 13-56. (Original published in 1971).

Randal Johnson. "Introduction," to Pierre Bourdieu. *The Field of Cultural Production: Essays on Art and Literature* (New York: Columbia, 1993).

Fanon, Frantz. "The Fact of Blackness" in Charles Lam Markmann, trans. *Black Skin White Masks* (New York: Grove Press, 1967), 109-140. (Original published in 1952)

Baraka, Amiri. Poems from *Funk Lore* (Los Angeles: Littoral Books, 1996), and from *Transbluesency* (New York: Marsilio Publishers, 1995).

hooks, bell. "Eating the Other," in *Black Looks: Race and Representation* (Boston: South End Press, 1992), 21-39.

Fausto-Sterling, Anne. "The Five Sexes." *The Sciences* (March-April 1993): 20-24.

Butler, Judith. "Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire," in *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (New York and London: Routledge, 1990), 1-34.

Schedule

September 2 Tuesday: Course Introduction and some Keywords

September 4 Thursday: Power and Knowledge

Readings: Foucault, "The Body of the Condemned," from *Discipline and Punish* (photocopy)

September 9 Tuesday: The Impossibility of Thinking That

Readings: Foucault, "Preface" from *Discipline and Punish* (photocopy)
Assignment: Response Paper to Foucault (both readings)

September 11: Thursday: What is a "nation"?

Readings: Renan, "What is a Nation?" in Bhabha, ed., *Nation and Narration* 8-22, (photocopy)

September 16: Tuesday: Imagined Communities 1

Readings: Intro and "Cultural Roots," in Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, 1-36.

September 18 Thursday: Imagined Communities 2

Readings: "The Origins of National Consciousness," in Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, 37-46.

Assignment: Response Paper to Anderson and Renan

September 23 Tuesday: What is a "subject"?

Readings: Solomon, "Prologue," "Introduction," "Setting the Stage," and "The Discovery of the Self: Rousseau," in *Continental Philosophy* 1-21, (photocopy); Rousseau, "Preface," (photocopy)

Student Presentation 1: Who was Rousseau?

September 25 Thursday: The Freudian Subject. Handout from *Civilization and Its Discontents*, footnote.

Readings: Freud, *The Ego and the Id*, 3-36

Student Presentation 2: Who was Freud?

September 30 Tuesday: The Freudian Subject 2

Readings: Freud, *The Ego and the Id*, 37-62

Assignment: Response Paper to Freud

October 2 Thursday: Power, Self and Other – Jean-Paul Sartre

Readings: Solomon, "Sartre, Camus...." in *Continental Philosophy*, 173-93 (photocopy); Spade, Excerpts from class notes on Sartre, "Sartre's Metaphysics," "Characteristics of Being-In-Itself," "Being-For-Itself," and "Positional and Non-Positional Consciousness...." 72-92 (photocopies)

Student Presentation 3: Who was Sartre?

October 7, Tuesday: The Look, 1

Readings: Sartre, "The Look" in *Being and Nothingness*, 340-375 (photocopy)

October 9 Thursday: The Look 2

Readings: Finish Sartre, "The Look," 375-400; Spade, Excerpts from class notes on Sartre, "The Look," 211-220 (photocopy)

Assignment: Response Paper to Sartre

No classes **October 14 Tuesday**

October 16, Thursday: In class dream exercises

Paper Due. No new readings.

October 21 Tuesday: Memory

Readings: Freud, "Screen Memories," (photocopy)

Assignment: Response Paper to Freud

October 23 Thursday: Does Ideology Construct You?

Readings: "Ideology and the State," in Althusser, *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays*, 123-149, (photocopy)

October 28, Tuesday: Ideological State Apparatus

Readings: Finish "Ideology and the State," 149-173.

Assignment: Response Paper to Althusser

October 30, Thursday: Commodity as Fetish

Readings: Marx, "The Fetishism of the Commodity," in *Capital V I.*, 163-177 (photocopy)

Student Presentation 4: Who was Marx?

November 4, Tuesday: Sex and Commodities

Readings: Haug, *Critique of Commodity Aesthetics* 13-56 (photocopy)

November 6 Thursday: Bourdieu's Cultural Field

Readings: Editor's Introduction to Bourdieu, *Field of Cultural Production* (photocopy)

Assignment: Response Paper to Marx, Haug, Bordieu

November 11 Tuesday: The Look and Race

Readings: "The Fact of Blackness" in Fanon, *Black Skin White Masks* 109-140 (photocopy)

Student Presentation 5: Who was Fanon?

November 13, Thursday: In Class: Baraka video

Readings: Baraka, poems from *Funk Lore* and *Transbluesency* (photocopy)

Student Presentation 6: Who is Baraka?**November 18, Tuesday: Desire and the Other**

Readings: bell hooks, "Eating the Other," in *Black Looks*, 21-39 (photocopy)

Assignment: Response Paper to hooks, Baraka

November 20, Thursday: Modern Sexuality

Readings: Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, 3-49

Student Presentation 7: Who was Foucault?**November 25 Tuesday: Sex and Power, 1**

Readings: Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, 53-131

No Class November 27, Thursday: Thanksgiving Break**December 2 Tuesday: Sex and Power, 2**

Readings: Finish Foucault, *History of Sexuality*

Assignment: Response Paper to Foucault

December 4 Thursday: Gender Performance 1

Readings: Butler, "Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire," in *Gender Trouble*, 1-34 (photocopy);

December 9 Tuesday: In Class Video: "Shinjuku Boys"

Readings: Fausto-Sterling, "Five Sexes," (photocopy)

December 11, Thursday: Wrapping it Up

Final Paper Due

No new Readings