SYD 6796 Sex, Race, and Power in Colonial Times
Cross-listed with
AFA 6217 Sex, Race, and Power in European Colonial Times

Dr. Jean Muteba Rahier
Associate Professor of Anthropology and African & African Diaspora Studies
Mondays 5:00 – 7:40PM
MMC Room LC 309
Spring Semester 2012
Office hours: M. 10:00am – 12:00pm or on appointment.
The professor will not meet with students between 4:00 and 5:00pm on M.
jrahier@fiu.edu (when e-mailing me, please clearly identify in a descriptive fashion the focus of the e-mail in the subject line)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course falls within the subfield often called “Anthropology of Colonialism” and focuses on the many instances of inter-racial sexual intimacy that took place in European colonial contexts between colonizers (usually white men) and colonized people (most of the time black and brown women). It is grounded on an anthropological examination of colonial archives and aims to introduce enrolled students to the scholarly literature on processes of racialization/sexualization of black and brown bodies in European colonial contexts, the colonial management or regulation of inter-racial intimacy, the production of colonial literature (called by some “ethnopornography”), etc. The work of Ann Laura Stoler, Franz Fanon, Michel Foucault, Radhika Mohanram, Irvin Schick, Sander Gilman, Marie-Bénédicte Dembours, etc. will be examined and discussed critically, along with more specifically Africanist texts. Although this course should be of interest to all students interested in colonial periods involving Europeans, during the course most
ethnographic/historiographic examples will come from continental Africa. Students will be able to write their term paper on the region of the world that is of interest to them.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. comprehend the fundamental racial, sexual and gender dynamics that characterize cross cultural encounters in European colonial contexts.
2. be aware of the fact that processes of racialization always come along with attendant and entangled processes of sexualization.
3. understand how fundamental a trope sexuality has been in attempts to construct non-Europeans as inferior Others.
4. appreciate as well how important a tool for the practice of power sexuality has been in European colonial contexts, mostly for colonizers over colonized people, but eventually also by the latter over the former.
5. better understand European colonial societies across the world, and particularly in continental Africa.
6. better grasp the nature of European empires’ histories from the 1500s through to the 20th century.
7. better understand postcolonial societies once dominated by a European power.

**MOODLE**

All students are REQUIRED to regularly utilize Moodle for this course; a minimum of twice a week is required. Through this website, students will be able to access all course information and materials, take the required examinations, view weekly course announcements, send messages to other students, participate in Moodle class discussions, and access grades. To access Moodle, you simply go to: [http://ecampus.fiu.edu](http://ecampus.fiu.edu)

**REQUIRED READINGS**

ALL READINGS MUST BE DONE IN ADVANCE, ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES (see below). THE BOOKS ARE ON SALE AT THE MMC FIU BOOKSTORE (unless otherwise indicated). THE ARTICLES ARE AVAILABLE IN PDF FORMAT ON MOODLE (they are listed in the course schedule individually under the day their reading must be done).

**Books**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Edition</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Required or Recommended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schick, Irvin</td>
<td>The Erotic Margin: sexuality and spatiality in alteritist discourse</td>
<td>1859847323</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Verso</td>
<td>Required</td>
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You must purchase this title on your own. It is out of print. They are not sold by the MMC bookstore. Amazon.com has second hand copies available. The entire book has also been uploaded on Moddle.

| Author(s) | STOLER |
METHOD OF ASSESSMENT
- “Informed” participation in class discussions, and on Moodle: 100
- 3 Take home examinations (150 points each): 450
- 3 Film Reports (50 points each) 150
- 1 Research paper 200
- In-class presentation: 100
Total 1,000

• The take home examinations will be available to students on Moodle 10 days before their due dates. See the Course Schedule below for the due dates. These examinations will be asking students to demonstrate their understanding of the required readings by asking questions that will bring students to discuss them in relation to each other.
• As will be explained on the first day of class, students will be asked to post reading reports on Moodle by specific dates. See Moodle for the reading report format.
• Students will be asked to watch films on their own time before the class date when the film will be discussed in class. The films will generally be available on Moodle. See Moodle for the film report formats.

COURSE PARTICIPATION
The required course participation consists in the following:
- Read the required readings in due time.
- Every week, comment in due time on the readings, on the course’s webCT site, as it will be established on the first day of class.

TERM PAPER
See Moodle for the research paper format.
The term paper must focus on the description/discussion of one or more (comparison) specific historical case(s) of such intersection of sex, race, and power in European colonial context(s) in either Africa, the Americas, or Asia. The focus of the term paper must have been approved by the professor by 02/06. On 02/05 by midnight, students must post on Moodle a brief abstract of their paper. This will allow every student to know what every one else is working on.

**SCHEDULE OF CLASSES**

**01/09**  
Explanation of course’s objectives and other details, assignments, Moodle, etc.  

**I Introduction: The Centrality of Sexual Desire/Repulsion for the Other in European Colonial Societies (1)**  
Various Theoretical Approaches

**01/16**  
MLK Day University Closed  
- Post reading reports (readings for 01/23) on Moodle as explained in class by midnight on 01/21

**01/23**  
**I Introduction: The Centrality of Sexual Desire/Repulsion for the Other in European Colonial Societies (2)**  
Various Theoretical Approaches: From the Psychoanalytical Repressive Hypothesis to the Foucauldian description of Desire as Produced by the Law

**Required Readings:**

- McClintock, Anne  
  1995  “Introduction: Postcolonialism and the Angel of Progress.”  
  AND  
  “‘Massa’ and Maids: Power and Desire in the Imperial Metropolis.”  
  Respectively pages 1-17 and 75-131 in *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest*. New York: Routledge.

- Stoler, Ann Laura  
  1995  “Colonial Studies and the History of Sexuality.”  
  AND  
  “Placing Race in the History of Sexuality.”  
  AND  
  “Domestic Subversions and Children’s Sexuality.”  
  AND  
  “The Education of Desire and the Repressive Hypothesis.”  
• Young, Robert J.C.
  1995  “Hybridity and Diaspora.”
  AND
  AND
  “Colonialism and the Desiring Machine.”
Respectively pages 1-28, 142-158, and 159-182 in Colonial Desire: Hybridity in Theory,

- Watch the film “Chocolat,” by Claire Dennis (Moodle). A film report is due on 01/28 at midnight.
- Post reading reports (readings for 01/20) on Moodle as explained in class by midnight on 01/28

01/30

II Race, Ethnicity, and Sexuality: Intimate Intersections, Forbidden Frontiers
A parenthesis to focus on a sociological approach and on the Americas

Required Readings:
• Nagel, Joane
  2003  “Sex Matters: Racing Sex and Sexing Race.”
  AND
  “Ethnosexual Frontiers: Cruising and Crossing Intimate Intersections.”
  AND
  “Constructing Ethnicity and Sexuality: Building Boundaries and Identities”
  AND
  “Sex and Conquest.”

- Discussion of the film “Chocolat”
- Post abstract of term paper by midnight on 02/05
- Post reading reports (readings for 02/06) on Moodle as explained in class by midnight on 02/04

02/06
- In-class discussion of paper abstracts

III Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule

Required Readings:
Ann Laura Stoler’s Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power.
(The whole book)

- Post reading reports (readings for 02/13) on Moodle as explained in class by midnight on 02/11

02/13

IV Epistemic Anxieties and Colonial Common Sense
Required Readings:
Ann Laura Stoler’s *Along the Archival Grain.*
(The whole book)

-Post reading reports (readings for 02/20) on Moodle as explained in class by midnight on 02/18

-Attend Dr. Rahier’s presentation on 02/17/2012 12:00 to 2:30pm. Venue: TBA; title of presentation: *The Bulletin de l'Union des Femmes Coloniales (BUFC): Early Feminism at the Service of the Belgian Colonial Ordering of Things in the Congo.*

02/20

-Discussion of **required reading:**

-Revision and summing up of what we have done so far
-Comments on take home examination # 1 questions
-In class viewing of relevant videos

**Take home examination # 1 due on Moodle by midnight on 02/24**

-Post reading reports (readings for 02/27) on Moodle as explained in class by midnight on 02/25

02/27

V The Erotic Margin: Sexuality and Spatiality in Alteritist Discourse

Required Readings:
Irvin Schick’s *The Erotic Margin: sexuality and spatiality in alteritist discourse.*
(The whole book)
Purchase the book on Amazon.com or see pdf on Moodle.

-Post reading reports (readings for 03/05) on Moodle as explained in class by midnight on 03/03

-Watch this film before class: “The Life and times of Sara Baartman ‘The Hottentot Venus’” (See Moodle). **A film report is due on 03/03 at midnight.**

03/05

VI The African Female Body: Essentialist Scholarship or Careful Analyses

Required Readings:
GILMAN, Sander
MAGUBANE, Zine

MOHANRAM, Radhika 1999 Black Body: Women, Colonialism, and Space. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. (Read Chapters 1, 2, and 3; respectively “The Cartography of Bodies” [3-22], “The Embodiment of Blackness” [23-55], and “Woman-body-nation-space”[56-86]).

Recommended Reading:
(My premise here is that you have already read this book):

-Discussion of the film “The Life and times of Sara Baartman ‘The Hottentot Venus’”
-Post

03/12
SPRING BREAK
-Take home examination # 2 due on Moodle by midnight on 03/18
-Watch video(s) TBA
-Post reading reports (readings for 03/19) on Moodle as explained in class by midnight on 03/17

03/19
VII Colonial Voices Recalling the Belgian Congo

Required Readings:
Marie-Bénédicte Dembour’s Recalling the Belgian Congo: Conversations and Introspection
(The whole book)

Recommended Reading (see Moodle):

-Post reading reports (readings for 03/26) on Moodle as explained in class by midnight on 03/24

03/26
VIII Inter-Racial Sex and Other Intimacies in Colonial Literature: the Case of the Belgian Congo

Required Reading:
• Rahier, Jean Muteba
• Geeraerts, Jef

Read the book reviews about *Gangren – Black Venus*.

04/02
NO FACE-TO-FACE CLASS
IX Negrophilia: *Avant-Garde Paris and African Peoples and Cultures*

- Watch film “Princess Tam Tam” (Moodle).
- **A film report is due by 04/08 at midnight.**

Required Reading:
• Archer-Straw, Petrine
• Various reviews of Josephine Baker’s films.

04/09
- Discussion of materials of week of 04/02
- Revision and summing up of what we have done so far
- Comments on take home examination # 3 questions
- In class viewing of relevant videos
- **Take home examination # 3 due on Moodle by midnight on 04/15**

04/16
Students’ Presentations

04/23
LAST WEEK OF SPRING SEMESTER

- Term papers due on Moodle by midnight on 04/22