

**AMERICAN STUDIES OF EMPIRE**  
**AMST-G620 (12006)**  
**SPRING 2008 COURSE SYLLABUS**

Professor: Micol Seigel  
Office: Memorial Hall East M33, 5-6327  
Office hours: W 3-5 & by appointment.

Class meets: T 1:00-03:30, BH 236  
email: [mseigel@indiana.edu](mailto:mseigel@indiana.edu)

**Class Description:** In the last decade and a half, American Studies work on empire has grown into a vibrant field. This work describes itself as “confounding of the borders between the foreign and the domestic” (Amy Kaplan), showing “how the local and the global are inextricably bound up with one another” (Christina Klein) and revealing those “forces produced by the presence of one nation within another” (Seth Fein). Pursuing versions of the global in the local, American Studies scholars are exploring transnational method, the cultural aspects of international politics, non-elite agency, resistance, hybridity, and especially nation-formation. Part of the burgeoning interest in studying nationalism and the “nation form,” the field reflects a world in which nationalisms are more vibrant and powerful than ever, despite some predictions of their obsolescence. It incorporates postcolonial theory and participates in debates over the “post” in postcolonial and the differences between colony, postcolony, empire, and nation. It draws on and contributes to related work in Diaspora Studies and the study of race, as well as queer and feminist theory. This seminar will examine this field, focusing on work on the Americas, including the U.S., Latin America, and the Caribbean. It will draw from some of the subfields within American Studies of empire as well as those fields that preceded and influenced it. In addition to a complex view of an exciting, emergent field, students will gain a working understanding of the key terms involved in this body of work, including nation, nationalism, postcolonial, empire, imperialism, diaspora, and transnational.

**Requirements:**

- ∞ Reading and discussion of class materials.
- ∞ Presentation of readings and discussion questions (frequency will depend on class size).
- ∞ 4-5 page book review.
- ∞ 15-20 page research prospectus with annotated bibliography.

*Details regarding written assignments will be distributed during the semester.*

**Presence in class:** Students who miss three or more of our 14 classes will lose one full letter grade, and one full letter grade for each additional absence thereafter. Students who miss six or more classes will fail the course. There is no distinction made between excused and unexcused absence.

**Class materials:** Readings include eleven books for purchase, articles on library e-reserve, and books on reserve.

**Books to buy**

Anderson, Imagined Communities  
Cultures of U.S. Imperialism, ed. Kaplan & Pease  
Kaplan, Anarchy of Empire  
Streeby, American Sensations  
Kramer, Blood of Government

Renda, Taking Haiti  
McAlister, Epic Encounters  
Edwards, Morocco Bound  
Saldaña, Revolutionary Imagination  
Smith, American Empire  
Haunted by Empire, ed. Stoler.

## Schedule of Classes (Summary)

### Introduction

1. **Jan 7** Introduction: class and content.

### Foundational Works and Concepts

2. **Jan 14** T-t-t-timing: Essays by Cooper, Smith, McClintock, Coronil
3. **Jan 21** Keywords: Anderson, Imagined C; Balibar, 2 essays
4. **Jan 28** Key volumes: Cultures of U.S. Imperialism & Close Encounters essays

### Monographs

5. **Feb 4** Kaplan, Anarchy of Empire
6. **Feb 11** Streeby, American Sensations
7. **Feb 18** Kramer, Blood of Government
8. **Feb 25** Renda, Taking Haiti
9. **Mar 3** McAlister, Epic Encounters

**Mar 10** – spring break week

### Subfields & Concentrations

10. **Mar 17** Orientalism: Edwards, Morocco Bound
  11. **Mar 25** Development: Saldaña, Revolutionary Imagination
- April 1** – NO CLASS: all students will attend IUB Conf
12. **April 8** Geography: Smith, American Empire
  13. **April 15** Empire at home: Haunted by Empire essays
  14. **April 21** TBA
- April 28** – exam week

## Schedule of Readings (full bibliographic information)

### Jan 7 – Introduction. No readings

### Jan 14 - T-t-t-timing

Cooper, Frederick, "Introduction: Colonial Questions, Historical Trajectories," and "The Rise, Fall, and Rise of Colonial Studies, 1951-2001," in Colonialism in Question: Theory, Knowledge, History (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005), pp. 3-55.

Smith, Neil, "The Satanic Geographies of Globalization: Uneven Development in the 1990s," Public Culture 10, no. 1 (1997): 169-189 [req'd article delivery 11/28/07].

McClintock, Anne, "The Angel of Progress: Pitfalls of the Term 'Postcolonialism,'" Social Text 31/32 (1992): 84-98; available online via JSTOR via stable url at <http://www.jstor.org/view/01642472/ap020026/02a00050/0>.

Coronil, Fernando, "After Empire: Reflections on Imperialism from the Américas," Imperial Formations, ed. Ann Laura Stoler, Carole McGranahan, & Peter C. Perdue (Santa Fe: SAR Press, 2007), 241-271.

### **Further Reading: Postcolonial and Subaltern Studies**

Chakrabarty, Dipesh, Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000).

Chatterjee, Partha, Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World: A Derivative Discourse (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1993).

Chatterjee, "Whose Imagined Community?" in The Nation and Its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993).

Dussel, Enrique, The Invention of the Americas: Eclipse of "the other" and the myth of modernity, trans. Michael Barber (NY: Continuum, 1995).

Dussel, The Underside of Modernity: Apel, Ricoeur, Rorty, Taylor, and the Philosophy of Liberation, trans. & ed. Eduardo Mendieta (Atlantic Highlands: Humanities Press, 1996).

Fanon, Frantz, The Wretched of the Earth (New York: Grove Press; Distributed by Publishers Group West, 2004 [1963]).

Guha, Ranajit, History at the Limit of World-History (NY: Columbia, 2002).

Mignolo, Walter, The Darker Side of the Renaissance: Literacy, Territoriality, and Colonization (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2003 [1995]).

Mignolo, Local Histories/Global Designs: Coloniality, Subaltern Knowledges, and Border Thinking (Princeton: PUP, 2000).

Quijano, Anibal, "Coloniality of Power, Eurocentrism, and Latin America," Nepantla: Views from South, 1, no. 3 (2000): 533-580.

The Postmodernism Debate in Latin America, special issue of Boundary 2, ed. John Beverley & José Oviedo (Fall 1993) (republished as a book with the same title by Duke University Press, 1995).

Wolf, Eric, Europe and the People without History (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982).

### Jan 21 - Keywords

Anderson, Benedict, Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism, 2<sup>nd</sup> or Rev. ed. (London; New York: Verso, 2006).

Balibar, Etienne, "Racism and Nationalism" and "The Nation Form," in Race, Nation, Class: Ambiguous Identities, ed. Immanuel Wallerstein and Etienne Balibar, trans. Chris Turner (London; New York: Verso, 1991), pp. 37-68 & 86-106.

***Further reading:***

- Du Bois, W.E.B., Black Reconstruction: An Essay toward a History of the Part which Black Folk Played in the Attempt to Reconstruct Democracy in America, 1860-1880 (NY: Russel & Russel, 1935).
- Gellner, Ernst, Nations and Nationalism (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1991).
- Hardt, Michael, and Antonio Negri, Empire (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2000).
- Hobsbawm, Eric, Nations and Nationalism since 1780: Programme, Myth, Reality (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991).
- Renan, Ernst, "What is a Nation," in Nation and Narration, ed. Homi K. Bhabha (London and New York: Routledge, 1994).
- Singh, Nikhil, Black Is a Country: Race and the Unfinished Struggle for Democracy (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004).

**Jan 28 - American Studies of Empire: Key Volumes**

- Cultures of U.S. Imperialism, ed. Amy Kaplan and Donald Pease (Durham: Duke University Press, 1993).
- Kaplan, Amy, "'Left Alone with America': The Absence of Empire in the Study of American Culture," Cultures of U.S. Imperialism, ed. Amy Kaplan and Donald Pease (Durham: Duke University Press, 1993), pp. 3-21.
- Rafael, Vicente, "White Love: Surveillance and Nationalist Resistance in the U.S. Colonization of the Philippines," 185-218.
- Kaplan, "Black and Blue on San Juan Hill," 219-236.
- Haraway, Donna, "Teddy Bear Patriarchy: Taxidermy in the Garden of Eden, New York City, 1908-1936," 237-291.
- Saldívar, José David, "Américo Paredes and Decolonization," 292-311.

***Suggested Reading:***

- Close Encounters of Empire: Writing the Cultural History of U.S.-Latin American Relations, ed. Gil Joseph, Catherine Legrand & Ricardo Salvatore (Durham: Duke University Press, 1998).
- Derby, Lauren, "Gringo Chickens with Worms: Food and Nationalism in the Dominican Republic," 451-493.
- Fein, Seth, "Everyday Forms of Transnational Collaboration: U.S. Film Propaganda in Cold War Mexico," 400-450.
- Roseberry, William, "Social Fields and Cultural Encounters," 515-524,
- Rosenberg, Emily, "Turning to Culture," 497-514.

**Monographs in American Studies of Empire**

- Feb 4:** Kaplan, The Anarchy of Empire in the Making of U.S. Culture (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002).
- Feb 11:** Streeby, Shelley, American Sensations: Class, Empire, and the Production of Popular Culture (Berkeley : University of California Press, 2002).
- Feb 18:** Kramer, Paul A., The Blood of Government: Race, Empire, the United States, & the Philippines (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006).
- Feb 25:** Renda, Mary, Taking Haiti: Military Occupation and the Culture of U.S. Imperialism, 1915-1940 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001).
- Mar 3:** McAlister, Melani, Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East, 1945-2000 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001).

*Further Reading:*

- Briggs, Laura, Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002).
- Dunkerley, James, Americana: The Americas in the World, around 1850 (or 'Seeing the Elephant' as the Theme for an Imaginary Western) (London; New York: Verso, 2000).
- Fein, Seth "New Empire into Old" Diplomatic History alskjdf (): .
- Findlay, Eileen J. Suárez, Imposing Decency: The Politics of Sexuality and Race in Puerto Rico, 1870-1920 (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1999).
- Foreign in a Domestic Sense: Puerto Rico, American Expansion, and the Constitution ed. Christina Duffy Burnett (Durham: Duke University Press, 2001).
- Hoganson, Kristin, Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998).
- Hoganson, Kristin, Consumers' Imperium: The Global Production of American Domesticity, 1865-1920 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007). [*cd read my chap 1 alongside?*] **avail for pickup 12/3/07.**
- Jacobson, Matthew Frye, Barbarian Virtues: The United States Encounters Foreign Peoples at Home and Abroad, 1876-1917 (New York: Hill and Wang, 2000).
- Pérez, Louis A., The War of 1898: The United States and Cuba in History and Historiography (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998). [avail IUB as electronic resource] See also Pérez, Ties of Singular Intimacy (1990); On Becoming Cuban (1999).
- Rafael, Vicente, White Love and Other Events in Filipino History (Durham: Duke University Press, 2000).
- Rydell, Robert W., All the World's a Fair: Visions of Empire at American International Expositions, 1876-1916 (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984).
- Striffler, Steve, In the Shadows of State and Capital: The United Fruit Company, Popular Struggle, and Agrarian Restructuring in Ecuador, 1900-1995 (Durham, NC : Duke University Press, 2002).

**Mar 10** – spring break week

**Mar 17 – Orientalism**

Edwards, Brian T., Morocco Bound: Disorienting America's Maghreb, from Casablanca to the Marrakech Express (Durham: Duke University Press, 2005) [**avail at**].

*Further Reading*

- Di Leonardo, Micaela, Exotics at Home: Anthropologies, Others, American Modernity (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998).
- Klein, Christina, Cold War Orientalism: Asia in the Middlebrow Imagination, 1945-1961 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003).

**Mar 25 – Development**

Saldaña-Portillo, Maria Josefina, The Revolutionary Imagination in the Americas and the Age of Development (Durham: Duke University Press, 2003).

*Further Reading*

Escobar, Arturo, "Beyond the Third World: Imperial Globality, Global Coloniality and Anti-globalisation Social Movements," Third World Quarterly 25, no. 1 (2004): 207-230.

Escobar, Arturo, Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995).

Kane, Stephanie, Phantom Gringo Boat: Shamanic Discourse and Development in Panama (Christchurch : Cybereditions, 2004).

#### **April 8 – Geography**

Smith, Neil, American Empire: Roosevelt's Geographer and the Prelude to Globalization (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003).

##### *Further Reading*

Harvey, David, Spaces of Neoliberalization: Towards a Theory of Uneven Geographical Development (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2005). Also published as Spaces of Global Capitalism: A Theory of Uneven Geographical Development (London; New York: Verso, 2006).

Smith, Neil, Uneven Development: Nature, Capital and the Production of Space, 2nd ed. (Oxford; New York: Basil Blackwell, 1990).

#### **April 15 – Empire at Home**

Haunted by Empire: Geographies of Intimacy in North American History, ed. Ann Laura Stoler (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006).

Shah, Nayan, "Adjudicating Intimacies on U.S. Frontiers," 117-139.

Lowe, Lisa, "The Intimacies of Four Continents," 191-212.

Briggs, Laura, "Making 'American' Families: Transnational Adoption and U.S. Latin America Policy," 344-365.

Briggs, Laura, unpublished essay (introduction to her forthcoming book)

Rosenberg, Emily, "Ordering Others: U.S. Financial Advisors in the Early Twentieth Century," 405-424.

##### *Further Reading*

Wexler, Laura, Tender Violence: Domestic Visions in an Age of U.S. Imperialism (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000).

## **ORDER FOR BOOKSTORES**

- Anderson, Benedict, Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism, 2<sup>nd</sup> or Rev. ed. (London; New York: Verso, 2006).
- Cultures of U.S. Imperialism, ed. Amy Kaplan and Donald Pease (Durham: Duke University Press, 1993).
- Edwards, Brian T., Morocco Bound: Disorienting America's Maghreb, from Casablanca to the Marrakech Express (Durham: Duke University Press, 2005).
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- Kramer, Paul A., The Blood of Government: Race, Empire, the United States, & the Philippines (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006).
- McAlister, Melani, Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East, 1945-2000 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001).
- Renda, Mary, Taking Haiti: Military Occupation and the Culture of U.S. Imperialism, 1915-1940 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001).
- Saldaña-Portillo, Maria Josefina, The Revolutionary Imagination in the Americas and the Age of Development (Durham: Duke University Press, 2003).
- Smith, Neil, American Empire: Roosevelt's Geographer and the Prelude to Globalization (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003).
- Streeby, Shelley, American Sensations: Class, Empire, and the Production of Popular Culture (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002).

## **PUT ON RESERVE: BOOKS**

- Balibar, Etienne, "Racism and Nationalism" and "The Nation Form," in Race, Nation, Class: Ambiguous Identities, ed. Immanuel Wallerstein and Etienne Balibar, trans. Chris Turner (London; New York: Verso, 1991), pp. 37-68 & 86-106.
- Cooper, Frederick, "Introduction: Colonial Questions, Historical Trajectories," and "The Rise, Fall, and Rise of Colonial Studies, 1951-2001," in Colonialism in Question: Theory, Knowledge, History (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005), pp. 3-55.
- Coronil, Fernando, "After Empire: Reflections on Imperialism from the Américas," Imperial Formations, ed. Ann Laura Stoler, Carole McGranahan, & Peter C. Perdue (Santa Fe: SAR Press, 2007), 241-271.
- McClintock, Anne, "The Angel of Progress: Pitfalls of the Term 'Postcolonialism,'" Social Text 31/32 (1992): 84-98; available online via JSTOR via stable url at <http://www.jstor.org/view/01642472/ap020026/02a00050/0>.
- Smith, Neil, "The Satanic Geographies of Globalization: Uneven Development in the 1990s," Public Culture 10, no. 1 (1997): 169-189 [*req'd article delivery 11/28/07*].

## **PUT ON RESERVE: ARTICLES**

- Close Encounters of Empire: Writing the Cultural History of U.S.-Latin American Relations, ed. Gil Joseph, Catherine Legrand & Ricardo Salvatore (Durham: Duke University Press, 1998).
- Haunted by Empire: Geographies of Intimacy in North American History, ed. Ann Laura Stoler (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006).