

ASST/ASAM/MS 110  
Spring, 2008  
T,Th 2:45-3:55 pm  
Pitzer College  
Course Reserves code: jparker110

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## **(MIS)REPRESENTATIONS OF THE NEAR EAST AND THE FAR EAST Course Syllabus**

### Course Description:

This course will consider representations of the Near East and the Far East and their role in global power relations, popular culture, overt and subtle forms of violence, and subjectivity and agency. Course materials will be taken from the mass media; novels, poetry, and films; foreign policy and the academy; and other sources. Issues to be considered include: the representation of violence; the construction of difference and “the other” in modernity and postmodernity; the production of knowledge; power in society; authenticity, hybridity, and appropriation; cultural nationalism and the nation state.

### Course Requirements:

Satisfactory completion of the course entails: 1) read assignments before class, attend regularly, and participate in discussions based on the readings and films; if you are uncomfortable speaking up in class, you may hand in written discussion questions in class (35%); 2) two 4-5 pg. papers or projects, the first using Hall to interpret a short video seen in class; the second analyzing the truth regime of news reporting on 9-11 or Israel/Palestine (20% each x 2 = 40%); 3) final project using postmodern methods to create a representation of the Near East or the Far East overseas or in the U.S. (25%). Graduate students will be asked to lead a class discussion on a topic of interest and to complete a longer research paper or project (between 30 and 40 pages in length) in place of the undergraduate final project. Note: Students with learning or physical disabilities will be given reasonable accommodations. To request accommodations or other assistance, contact the Academic Support Services Office, extension 73553. Students who do not give their sources for ideas and information not their own or common knowledge are practicing plagiarism; they will be given one chance to rewrite the paper and correct the problem, and if it is not corrected they will not receive credit for the assignment.

### Required Textbooks: (All course readings are available at the Honnold library reserve desk.)

Collins, John and Ross Glover, ed., Collateral Language: A User's Guide to America's New War, New York Univ. Pr.

Hall, Stuart, ed., Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices, Sage.

Hammad, Suheir, Zaatar Diva, Cypher/Rattapallax, 2005.

Handal, Nathalie, comp. The Poetry of Arab Women: A Contemporary Anthology. Interlink Books, 2001.

Hwang, David Henry, M. Butterfly, New American Library.

Lincoln, Bruce, Holy Terrors: Thinking about Religion after September 11, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Univ. of Chicago.

Xerox Packet (purchase at King's Copies, 865 W. Foothill, just west of Sprouts by Claremont Camera, 625-2002)

**Readings Schedule:** (Readings marked with an asterisk (\*) are in textbooks; all other readings are in xeroxed course readings packet and on reserve at the library.)

Week 1 Course Introduction: What is (Mis)Representation?

Jan. 22-24 Readings: Discussion Guidelines (handout).  
\*Hall, Intro., p. 1-12.

Videos: Valerie Soe, All Asians Look the Same and Beauty Spot.

Week 2 What is Representation?

Jan. 29-31 Readings: \*Hall, Ch. 1, p. 13-74.

Video: Hall, Floating Signifier.

Week 3 What is Representation? (cont.)

Feb. 5-7 Readings: Gore, "Disciplining Bodies," 231-51.

\*Collins and Glover, Collateral Language, intro, 1-13.

\*Hall, Ch. 4, 223-49.

Week 4 The "Other," and U.S. representations of Gendered Asia and Asian Americans.

Feb. 12-14 Readings: \*Hall, 269-90 and 315-23.

\*Collins and Glover, Collateral Language, "Civ. Vs. Barbarism"

Video: To Be Ourselves.

Week 5 Mass Media and the Regime of Truth.

Feb. 19-21 Readings: "A Ten-Point Plan for Media Democracy." (handout)??

"The National Entertainment State." (handout)??

"Evaluating Web Pages: Techniques to Apply and Questions to Ask." (Handout)??

Video: Fear and Favor in the Newsroom.

Video: Media and Democracy in the Arab World.

**Feb. 19 Hall Paper Due.**

Week 6 Intersectionality, Gender, and Representation.

Feb. 26-28 Readings: Ahmed, "Feminism...in Islam," 143-51.

Kim, "Bad Women," 184-94.

Monterescu, "Stranger Masculinities," 123-42.

Week 7 Intersectionality, Sexuality, and Representation.

Mar. 4-6 Readings: Wong, "Subverting Desire," 63-74.

Massad, Desiring Arabs, 1-50.

Week 8 The Regime of Truth and Racialized Representation.

Mar. 11-13 Readings: Gallicchio, African American Encounter, 105-38.

Berkowitz, "African American Muslims," 11-14.

**Happy Spring Break.**

- Week 9 Gendered Representations of the Near East.  
Mar. 25-27 Readings: \*Handal, Poetry of Arab Women, 1-12, 29-34, 40-60;  
119-22, 171-82, 199-204, 243-48, 251-4, 274-6.
- Week 10 Representation and Terrorism.  
Apr. 1-3 Readings: \*Lincoln, Ch. 1-2, App. A-D.  
\*Collins and Glover, Collateral Language, "Terrorism."  
Video: The Battle of Algiers.
- Week 11 Representation and Terrorism (cont.).  
Apr. 8-10 Readings: \*Lincoln, Ch. 3.  
Aidi, "Urban Islam," 31-34.  
Meeropol, p. 60-71, 144-69.
- Week 12 Postmodern Representations.  
Apr. 15-17 Readings: Connor, "Postmodernism," 428-32.  
Turner, "Orientalism, postmodernism, and religion," 3-19.  
\*Hwang, M. Butterfly, Introduction & Afterword.  
Video: Fresh Kill.  
**Apr. 15 News Analysis Paper Due.**
- Week 13 (Mis)Representing the Asian Body.  
Apr. 22-24 Readings: \*Hwang, M. Butterfly, play text.  
Garber, "Occidental Tourist," 121-46.  
Video Trinh Minh-ha, Surname Viet, Given Name Nam.
- Week 14 Subaltern and Feminist Representations.  
Apr. 29- May 1 Readings: \*Hammad, 21-24, 28, 32-4, 59-78, 92-3, & CD tracks 1, 5, 8, 9,  
11-14, 17-20.
- Week 15 Course Conclusion: The Politics of Representation.  
May 6-8 Readings: \*Handal, Poetry of Arab Women, Kadi, p. 136-40.  
\*Hammad, 98-102.

**May 8 Graduating Seniors: Postmodernism Projects Due in Class.**

**May 15 (Thur.), before 2 pm, Postmodernism Projects Papers Due.**

IIS/ASST/MS 110  
Spring, 2003  
(Mis)Representations of the Near East and the Far East

Joseph Parker  
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Pitzer College

### COURSE PACKET READINGS

- Gore, Jennifer, "Disciplining Bodies: On the Continuity of Power Relations in Pedagogy," in Thomas F. Popkewitz and Marie Brennan, eds., Foucault's Challenge: Discourse, Knowledge, and Power in Education, Teacher's College Press, Columbia Univ., 1998, 231-51.
- Chester, Jeffrey, "Ten Point Plan for Media Democracy," The Nation, 7-3-06, p. 21-22, "Evaluating Web Pages: Techniques to Apply and Questions to Ask."  
<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html> (accessed 11-20-007)
- Ahmed, Leila, "Feminism and Cross-Cultural Inquiry: The Terms of the Discourse in Islam," in Coming to Terms: Feminism, Theory, Politics, Ed. Elizabeth Weed, Routledge, 1989, 143-51.
- Kim, Elaine, "Bad Women: Asian American Visual Artists Hanh Thi Pham, Hung Liu, and Tong Soon Min," in Making More Waves: New Writing by Asian American Women, ed. Elaine H. Kim, Lillia V. Villanueva, and Asian Women United of California, Beacon Pr., 1997, 184-94.
- Monterescu, Daniel, "Stranger Masculinities: gender and politics in a Palestinian-Israeli 'Third Space,'" in Lahoucine Ouzgane, ed., Islamic Masculinities, New York: Zed Books, 2006, p. 123-42.
- Massad, Joseph, "Introduction," Desiring Arabs, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007, 1-50.
- Wong, Sau-ling Cynthia, "Subverting Desire: Reading the Body in the 1991 Asian Pacific Islander Men's Calendar," in Critical Mass: A Journal of Asian American Cultural Criticism, 1.1 (Fall, 1993): 63-74.
- Gallicchio, Marc. The African American Encounter with Japan and China: Black Internationalism in Asia, 1895-1945 University of North Carolina Pr., 2000, p. 1-5 & 102-38.
- Berkowitz, Bill. "African American Muslims: A Clear and Present Danger?" Z Magazine (June, 2003): 11-14.
- Aidi, Hisham. "Urban Islam and the War on Terror," ColorLines (Winter 2002/2003): 31-34.
- Meeropol, Rachel, ed., America's Disappeared: Secret Imprisonment, Detainees, and the "War on Terror", New York: Seven Stories Press, 2005, p. 60-71, 144-69.
- Garber, Marjorie, "The Occidental Tourist: M. Butterfly and the Scandal of Transvestism," in Andrew Parker, et al., ed., Nationalisms and Sexualities, NY: Routledge, 1992, p. 121-46.
- Connor, Steven. "Postmodernism." A Dictionary of Cultural and Critical Theory. Ed. Michael Payne. Blackwell, 1996. p. 428-32.
- Turner, Brian. "Orientalism, postmodernism, and religion." Orientalism, Postmodernism, & Globalism. Routledge, 1994. p. 3-19.