

GFS/IIS/RLST 167
Spring, 2007
Class: W 2:45-5:30
Pitzer College

Joe Parker
Office: Broad Center 213
Office Hrs: Tu, W, Th 1:30-2:30
Office Phone: (607)-4318
Home Phone: 626-398-4390
Email: joe_parker@pitzer.edu
Website: <http://pzacad.pitzer.edu/%7Ejpark/>

Electronic reserve number: parker167 (lower case only)

Website: <http://pzacad.pitzer.edu/%7Ejpark/>

Theory and Practice of Resistance to Monoculture Course Syllabus

Course Description:

In this course we will examine theoretically and experientially models of historical and contemporary resistance to monocultural patterns of knowledge and social relations. Monoculture supports the major institutions of capitalist modernity and recent European scientific systems. Yet resistance to monoculture has historically emerged from groups who have somehow survived the onslaught of monoculture, including women; people of color; working classes, the unemployed, the homeless, the imprisoned, and the underclasses; gays, lesbians, transgendered persons and bisexuals; many peoples of the third worlds and first nations; and other groups. We will survey the knowledge systems of some of these groups, such as Curanderismo, Wicca, Chinese science and medicine, Santería, Buddhism, indigenous medical and spiritual traditions, and others as a way of understanding how race, class, gender, sexuality and nationality can lead to effective resistance and constructive social change.

Required Textbooks: (Available at Huntley Bookstore, unless otherwise indicated.)

Brander Rasmussen, et al., eds., The Making and Unmaking of Whiteness, Duke Univ. Pr.

D. Burton Rose, Celling of America, Common Courage Pr.

Subcommandante Insurgente Marcos, Our Word is Our Weapon, Seven Stories Press, 2002

Vandana Shiva, Monocultures of the Mind, Zed Books/Third World Network.

Starhawk, The Spiral Dance, 1999 ed., Harper San Francisco.

Armory Starr, Naming the Enemy, Zed Books.

R. Trotter II, and J. A. Chavira, Curanderismo, 2nd ed., Univ. Georgia Pr.

United for a Fair Economy, The Activist Cookbook, United for a Fair Economy.

Readings Packet (Purchase at King's Copies, 865 W. Foothill just past gas station by Claremont Camera, 625-2002)

Course Requirements:

Undergraduate Students: Completion of course readings and active participation in class discussion of readings (oral or written) (35%); participation in six class experiential exercises, with 2-3 page written reaction to each one (See handout.) (30%); and a final take-home integrative exercise completed in written form and discussed at time of final exam (35%). Graduate Students: Same as above with additional 30 page research paper required (30%).

Note: Students with learning or physical disabilities will be given reasonable accommodations. If you need to request accommodations or other assistance, contact the Academic Support Services Office, extension 73553.

Experiential Exercises (6 of 7 required):

Buddhist Meditation

Cookbook Exercise

Curandera Plants Uses

California Youth Authority

Tongva Plant Uses

Wiccan Ritual

Claiming Race, Class, Gender, and Nation

Course topics and reading schedule:

(Items with asterisk (*) are textbooks; others are in course packet; all readings are available at Honnold Library reserve readings desk except in-class handouts; packets are available for purchase at King's Copies.)

Week 1 Introduction to Course

Jan. 17 Readings: Handouts.

Video: Sudeshya (Chipko movement)

Week 2 Political Economy and Knowledge Systems of Monoculture.

Jan. 24 Readings: *Shiva, Monocultures of the Mind, Intro. & 9-64.

Gupte, "Participation in a Gendered...Community Forestry," 365-82.

hooks, "Talking Back," 5-9.

Narayan, "Working Together," 31-47.

Experiential Exercise:

Claiming Race, Class, Gender, and Nation.

Monoculture Course Schedule (cont.)

Week 3 Surviving Knowledge Systems I: Buddhism

Jan. 31- Readings: [Perfection of Wisdom](#), 9-14.
Chödrön, “Working with Chaos,” 163-67.
Sunseri, “Stories,” 148-59.
BASE Statement.

Experiential Exercise: Zen Buddhist Meditation.

Resistance to Monoculture—Course Schedule (cont.)

Week 4 Surviving Communities I: Native Americans.

Feb. 7 Readings: “Fighting for the Right Rights,” [Cultural Survival Quarterly](#), 3-4.
Aylwin, “Land and Resources,” 14-15.
Cherrington, “Colombia Guilty of Crimes Against Humanity,” 6.
*[Our Word is Our Weapon](#), 3-21, 33-37, 75-78, 151-54, 217-25, 291-94, 308-9, 445-52.
and photos between 192-93.
Shiva, et al., “Common Property Resources,” 96-121.

Video:

Week 5 Surviving Communities I: Native Americans (cont.).

Feb. 14 Readings: “Welcome to the Land of the Tongva.”
Hayden, “Bolivia’s Indian Revolt,” 18-22.
Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota Nations, “Declaration of War,” 273-77.
Churchill, “Alert,” 279-81.

Feb. 14 Experiential Exercise: Tongva Plant Tour: Mark Acuña.

Week 6 Surviving Communities II: U.S. Prison Populations.

Feb. 21 Readings: *Rose, [Celling of America](#), p. 1-3, 20-27, 40-44, 55-7, 78-87, 102-6, 114-21,
171-80.225-7, 244-49.

Feb. 21 Experiential Exercise: California Youth Authority.

Week 7 Agency in Reclaiming Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality, and Nation.

Feb. 28- Readings: Kappeler, “Speciesism, Racism, Nationalism,” 320-52.
*Rasmussen, et al., 1-14, 113-37.

Week 8 Agency in Reclaiming Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality, and Nation (cont.)

Mar. 7 Readings: *Rasmussen, et al., 234-65, 294-310.
Slapin, “Caucasian Basic Skills.”
hooks, “Men: Comrades in Struggle,” 67-81.

Happy Spring Break

Week 9 Monoculture, Globalization, and Agency.

Mar. 21 Readings: *Starr, [Naming the Enemy](#), 1-44.
Goldtooth and Tauli-Corpuz, “Indigenous Perspectives,” 10-12.
*[Cookbook](#), intro. and Ch. 1-3, p. vi-vii and 1-25.

Experiential Exercise: Begin Cookbook exercise group work.

Week 10 Surviving Communities II: European Survivors of Monoculture.

Mar. 28 Readings: *Starhawk, [The Spiral Dance](#), Ch. 1, 2, 8, 13 & Intro. to 10 and 20 year editions
*Recommended: Starhawk, Ch. 3-4.

Video: [Burning Times](#).

Experiential Exercise: Wiccan Ritual with Alani’s Eyes Coven.

Week 11 Surviving Knowledge Systems II: Curanderismo

Apr. 4 Readings: *Trotter & Chavira, [Curanderismo](#), p. 1-16, 61-101, 162-75.
*Recommended: Trotter & Chavira, [Curanderismo](#), p. 25-40.

Experiential Exercise: Curandera Medicinal Plants.

Week 12 Monoculture, Globalization, and Agency (cont.)

Apr. 11 Readings: *Starr, [Naming the Enemy](#), 148-91.
Crass, “Global Capitalism and White Supremacy.”

Monoculture Course Schedule (cont.)

Week 13 Talking Back to Monoculture.

Apr. 18 Reading: *Starr, Naming the Enemy, 205-228.
*Cookbook, Ch. 4 & 5.

Week 14 Talking Back to Monoculture (cont.).

Apr. 25 Readings: *Cookbook, Ch. 8 and 9.
BLF, "Manifesto."
BLF, "Art and Science."
basil and billie, "Ten Ways to Tokenize or Alienate..."
Dixon, "Ten Things."

Videos: Affluenza and Adbusters/EBN shorts.

Experiential Exercise: Cookbook Group Exercise Completion Deadline.

Week 15 Re-envisioning Monoculture and Possible New Worlds.

May 2 Readings: *Our Word is Our Weapon, 163-65, 407-12.

Final Exercise Discussion during Final Examination Time: Monday, May 7, 2-5 pm.

Course Readings Packet

- Gupte, Manjusha, "Participation in a Gendered Environment: The Case of Community Forestry in India," Human Ecology, 32.2 (June, 2004): 365-82.
- bell hooks, "Talking Back," in her Talking Back: thinking feminist, thinking black, South End Press, 1989, p. 5-9.
- Uma Narayan, "Working Together Across Difference: Some Considerations on Emotions and Political Practice", Hypatia, 3.2 (Summer, 1988): 31-47
- Perfection of Wisdom in 8,000 Lines, trans. E. Conze, Four Seasons Foundation, 1975, p. 9-14.
- Pema Chödrön, "Three Methods for Working with Chaos," in Lenore Freidman and Susan Moon, eds., Being Bodies: Buddhist Women on the Paradox of Embodiment, Shambala, 1997, 163-69.
- Sunseri, "Stories," in W. Leyland, ed., Queer Dharma: Voices of Gay Buddhists, Gay Sunshine Press, 1998, p. 148-59.
- "A Handbook for the Creation of the Buddhist Alliance for Social Engagement," Buddhist Peace Fellowship, Feb. 1996.
- "Fighting for the Right Rights," Cultural Survival Quarterly, Winter, 2006, 3-4.
- José Aylwin, "Land and Resources," Cultural Survival Quarterly, Winter, 2006, 14-15.
- Mark Cherrington, "Human Rights Delegation Finds Colombia Guilty of Crimes Against Humanity," Cultural Survival Quarterly, Winter, 2006, 6.
- Vandana Shiva, et al., "Common Property Resources: International Examples of the Legal Recognition of Collective Rights," The Enclosure of the Commons, New Delhi: Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology, 1997, p. 96-121.
- "Welcome to the Land of the Tongva." Gabrieleno/Tongva Tribal Council, 1998.
- Tom Hayden, "Bolivia's Indian Revolt," The Nation, June 21, 2004, 18-22.
- Ward Churchill, "Alert Concerning the Abuse and Exploitation of American Indian Sacred Traditions," Ward Churchill, Indians are Us: Culture and Genocide in Native North America, Common Courage Press, 1994, p. 279-81.
- Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota Nations, "Declaration of War Against Exploiters of Lakota Spirituality," in Ward Churchill, Indians are Us: Culture and Genocide in Native North America, Common Courage Press, 1994, p. 273-77.
- Susanne Kappeler, "Speciesism, Racism, Nationalism...or the Power of Scientific Subjectivity," in Animals and Women: Feminist Theoretical Explorations, ed. Carol J. Adams and Josephine Donovan, Duke U.P., 1995, p. 320-352.
- Beverly Slapin and Annie Esposito, "Caucasian Americans: Basic Skills Workbook," Oyate Publications, n.d. (www.oyate.org)
- bell hooks, "Men: Comrades in Struggle," in her Feminist Theory: from margin to center, South End Press, 1984, 67-81.
- Tom Goldtooth and Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, "Indigenous Peoples' Perspective on Sustainable Development," IFG Bulletin, 3.1 (Summer 2002): 10-12.
- Chris Crass, "Confronting Global Capitalism and Challenging White Supremacy." "Tools for White Guys who are Working for Social Change and other people socialized in a society based on domination."
<http://colours.mahost.org/org/whiteguys.html> (4-5-04)
- basil and billie, "Ten ways to tokenize or alienate a non-white person around you (or, ten examples of the racism we witness on a regular basis)." <http://colours.mahost.org/org/tenways.html> (4-5-04)
- Chris Dixon, "Ten Things to Remember: Anti-Racist Strategies for White Student Radicals."
<http://colours.mahost.org/org/whitestudents.html> (4-5-04)
- BLF, "The BLF Manifesto," <http://www.billboardliberation.com/manifesto.html> (8-28-04)
- BLF, "The Art and Science of Billboard Improvement," <http://www.billboardliberation.com/manifesto.html> (8-28-04)