

Oberlin College
Department of History

History 328: American Mixed Blood
Fall 2008
Wednesday, 2:30-4:20 PM, King 325

Instructor: Pablo Mitchell
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Office Hours: **Monday 3-4, Wednesday 11-12 (and by appointment)**

From the *coyote* and the half-breed to the "tragic" mulatto, people of mixed ethnic and racial heritage occupy a conflicted and controversial place in American history. This course will chart the histories of people of mixed heritage from the colonial period to the present, exploring the relationship between the historical experiences of mixed heritage and broader trends in American history including slavery, imperialism, legal transformation, and changing cultural patterns. We will also consider current social theories of hybridity, and *mestizaje*.

Required Texts:

María Raquél Casas, *Married to a Daughter of the Land*
Jane M.Gaines, *Fire and Desire*
Martha Hodes, *The Sea Captain's Wife*
Earl Lewis, Heidi Ardizzone, *Love on Trial*
Rachel F. Moran, *Interracial Intimacy*
Tiya Miles, *Ties That Bind*
Phyl Newbeck, *Virginia Hasn't Always Been for Lovers*
Renee Christine Romano, *Race Mixing*
Joel Williamson, *New People*
Naomi Zack, ed., *American Mixed Race*

All textbooks are available for purchase at the college bookstore. Additional readings are available on reserve at Mudd Library.

Grading:

Class Participation/Attendance	10
Book Review #1	25
Book Review #2	25
Book Review #3	25
In-Class Presentation	15

Final Grade will be out of 100 points

Class Participation:

Regular attendance and thoughtful, prepared, courteous participation in classroom discussion are required features of the class. Due to the small size of the class and because it meets only once a week, attendance and preparation are very important, as is the careful reading of classmates' book reviews. Attendance (and absences) will be considered in determining your final grade.

Written Assignments:

As an upper-level History seminar, this course seeks to provide students with an introduction of sorts to graduate work. Book reviews and peer evaluation are basic aspects of many academic disciplines, including History, and will play a central role in this course. Each student will be responsible for preparing three 5-page book reviews on books from the list of assigned reading. The book reviews should address the authors' main points, methodological approaches, and historiographical concerns. Students will distribute copies of their reviews to the instructor and to their classmates (who will be expected to read the reviews and constructively comment on them during class discussion).

The reviews are due by noon on the Tuesday before the book is to be discussed in class and should be distributed electronically to the entire class and the instructor. In addition, 3 hard copies of the paper should be placed outside the instructor's office (King 141E) by noon Tuesday for students unable to access the papers electronically. The papers should be legibly typed or word-processed, with reasonable fonts, double-spacing, and 1 inch margins (double-sided printing is encouraged). Please attempt to stay within the assigned page limits.

Note: With very few exceptions, late book reviews will not be accepted.

In-Class Presentations:

Students will also be required to make in-class presentations at the end of the semester. These presentations will be reviews of three articles covering topics in the history of racial and/or ethnic mixing in the United States. The presentations should be 10 minutes in length and describe the main arguments of the three articles, compare their conclusions and methodological approaches, and place the articles within historiographical context. Please arrange a meeting with the instructor by November 7, 2008 to discuss your presentation.

Honor Code

All work in this class is governed by the honor code of Oberlin College. The honor code is available at: http://oncampus.oberlin.edu/courses/1/DSt/content/_162787_1/honorcode.pdf. If you have questions about how the honor code applies to any assignment or work done for the class, please feel free to consult the instructor.

Schedule and Reading Assignments:

September 3 Introduction

September 10

Joel Williamson, *New People*

September 17

Tiya Miles, *Ties That Bind*

September 24

María Raquél Casas, *Married to a Daughter of the Land*

October 1

Martha Hodes, *The Sea Captain's Wife*

October 8

Jane M. Gaines, *Fire and Desire*

October 15

Earl Lewis, Heidi Ardizzone, *Love on Trial*

October 22

Spring Break, no class.

October 29

Rachel F. Moran, *Interracial Intimacy*

November 5

Renee Christine Romano, *Race Mixing*

November 7: Deadline to consult with instructor about In-Class Presentations

November 12

Phyl Newbeck, *Virginia Hasn't Always Been for Lovers*

November 19

Naomi Zack, ed., *American Mixed Race*

November 26

Research Presentations

December 3

Research Presentations

December 10

Research Presentations