White Man’s Burden
Rudyard Kipling, 1899
McClure’s Magazine

Take up the White Man’s burden--
Send forth the best ye breed--
Go, bind your sons to exile
To serve your captives’ need;
To wait, in heavy harness,
On fluttered folk and wild--
Your new-caught sullen peoples,
Half devil and half child.

Take up the White Man’s burden--
In patience to abide,
To veil the threat of terror
And check the show of pride;
By open speech and simple,
An hundred times made plain,
To seek another’s profit
And work another’s gain.

Take up the White Man’s burden--
The savage wars of peace—
Fill full the mouth of Famine,
And bid the sickness cease;
And when your goal is nearest
(Th’ end for others sought)
Watch sloth and heathen folly
Bring all your hope to nought.

Take up the White Man’s burden--
No iron rule of kings,
But toil of serf and sweeper--
The tale of common things.
The ports ye shall not enter,
The roads ye shall not tread,
Go, make them with your living
And mark them with your dead.

Take up the White Man’s burden,
And reap his old reward--
The blame of those ye better
The hate of those ye guard--
The cry of hosts ye humour
(Ah, slowly!) toward the light:--
"Why brought ye us from bondage,
Our loved Egyptian night?"

Take up the White Man’s burden--
Ye dare not stoop to less--
Nor call too loud on Freedom
To cloak your weariness.
By all ye will or whisper,
By all ye leave or do,
The silent sullen peoples
Shall weigh your God and you.

Take up the White Man’s burden!
Have done with childish days--
The lightly-proffered laurel,
The easy ungrudged praise:
Comes now, to search your manhood
Through all the thankless years,
Cold, edged with dear-bought wisdom,
The judgment of your peers.
Although this is an upper level seminar, this course is an introduction to the history, politics, economics, and psychology of race and racism. It covers a very broad range, striving for breadth rather than depth in any particular area.

Course requirements:
1) Two 4-page reading response papers, due at noon on the day before the reading will be discussed in class. Late papers, handed in after the class that covered that reading, will not be accepted. One of these papers must be handed in before February 15.
   Format: these short papers should critically engage the reading. Although they are brief, they should be real “papers,” with an argument, an introductory paragraph, and a conclusion – they should not take the form of a series of interesting questions, or of “thoughts” or “ideas” you had when you were doing the reading. One, or maybe both, of the short papers should explore an idea you want to develop for the final paper. Each of these papers will be worth 20% of the grade.

2) One final 20-page paper, due in the last week of class. This paper may be on almost any topic related to race – it may be a research paper, a theoretical paper, or a literature review. Students are REQUIRED to meet with me during the semester to discuss their paper topic. Papers that have not been discussed with and approved by the instructor will not be accepted. This paper will be worth 50% of the grade.

3) Attendance in this course is mandatory. If a student misses more than one class without medical documentation, s/he will be asked to withdraw from the course. This is a seminar class. Students must complete all the reading, and come to class prepared to engage in discussion. In-class participation will be worth 10% of the grade.

Week 1: Introduction, no reading

Biology, genetics, culture, and race theory in the late 20th century (15 JAN)

Sally Haslanger. “A Social Constructionist Analysis of Race” PDF on quercus

Race and racism in the 19th century. (22 JAN)

Michael Biddiss, “History as Destiny: Gobineau, H. S. Chamberlain and Spengler,” Transactions of the Royal Historical Society, Sixth Series, Vol. 7 (1997), pp. 73-100 online
Genealogies of Race. (29 JAN)

Michel Foucault, Society Must be Defended, lectures 3, 4, and 11. Online at http://rebels-library.org/files/foucault_society_must_be_defended.pdf

Race, Colonialism, and Slavery. (5 FEB)

Frantz Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth
Thomas McCarthy, chapter 4 “Coming to terms with the past: on the politics of the memory of slavery,” in Race, Empire and the Idea of Human Development
Sarkozy’s 2007 speech in Senegal; response by Achille Mbembe. PDF

Race and Liberalism. (12 FEB)

Thomas McCarthy, chapters 2 and 6, in Race, Empire and the Idea of Human Development
Lani Guinier and Gerald Torres, chapter 2 “A Critique of Color-blindness,” in The Miner’s Canary

Race, Africa, and Pan-Africanism. (26 FEB)


Race and Culture (5 MAR)

Thomas McCarthy, “Introduction,” in Race, Empire and the Idea of Human Development
Suggested: Appiah, “Race, Culture, Identity: Misunderstood connections”
Race in Canada. (12 MAR)

Sherene Razack, “Policing the Borders of Nation: The Imperial Gaze in Gender Persecution Cases,” in Looking White People in the Eye

Race and Indigeneity  (19 MAR)

Various articles, commentaries, about Joseph Boyden’s alleged indigenous heritage
Courtney Jung, “Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the History of Mexican Indigenous Politics” online at ssrn.com

Race and gender  (26 MAR)

Sander Gilman, “Black Bodies, White Bodies: Toward an Iconography of Female Sexuality in Late Nineteenth Century Art, Medicine, and Literature,” Critical Inquiry, 1985 online
Kimberle Crenshaw, “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color”

Race and class  (2 APR)

Richard Iton, Solidarity Blues: Race, Culture and the American Left
Etienne Balibar and Immanuel Wallerstein, Race, Nation, Class. Selected chapters