HIST 452
American Ethnic History
Mondays 3:30-6:00
M Pacheco ILC, Room 145

Dr. Tyina Steptoe, PhD
Office: 235 Social Sciences
Mailbox: 215 Social Sciences
Email: tsteptoe@email.arizona.edu
Office hours: Wednesday, 2:00-4:00 p.m. and by appointment

Overview
This reading seminar is designed for upper-level undergraduate students. The course co-convenes with HIST 552, which is a graduate seminar. We will survey works in the history of race and ethnicity in the United States from the colonial era through the late twentieth century.

Book List
You have five required texts for this course:


Additional articles and book chapters will be required at different points during the semester. Find those readings on D2L.

All reading assignments are due on the date listed in the course schedule.
Course Requirements and Grade Distribution
This course requires faithful attendance, completion of weekly readings before we meet for class, and interactive participation in discussion. Unless related to an excused absence, no late work will be accepted.

Submit all work to the appropriate Assignments folder in D2L. Emailed exams and reviews will not be accepted.

All written work must be double-spaced and written in 12-point font with one-inch margins. Please proofread your papers carefully before the due date. DO NOT SUBMIT PAPERS THAT CONTAIN ERRORS IN GRAMMAR, SPELLING, AND PUNCTUATION. Written work that shows a lack of proofreading will receive a substantially lowered grade. When in doubt, consult William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White, Elements of Style.

Please use the standard humanities style of documentation as detailed in The Chicago Manual of Style, 16th ed.

Assignments and Grading
Exam #1: 25%
Exam #2: 30%
Book Reviews (2): 30%
Participation: 15%

1. Exams: You will have two take-home essay exams this semester. I will give you a prompt, and you will have one week to provide a response that draws on reading and lecture material. Exam #1 will be distributed on Oct. 3 and is due on Oct. 10 by 6:00 p.m. Exam #2 will be distributed on Dec. 5 and is due on Dec. 14 by 6:00 pm. Essays should be no longer than eight pages. Additional guidelines will be distributed in class.

2. Book Reviews: Read and review (2-3 pages each) two of the assigned books listed on page 1. You must write one review per unit. (In other words, complete one review by Oct. 10 and the other by Dec. 5.) Model your review on the ones found in academic journals like Journal of American History. Consult the handout on writing academic reviews and the sample review on D2L. Please submit your review on the day we discuss that book in class. (For example, if you review Gomez’s Exchanging Our Country Marks, your review is due on Sept. 12. If you review Rothman’s Notorious in the Neighborhood, the review is due on Sept. 19.)

3. A portion of your grade will be based on participation in class discussions. On those days when you have a book due, we will spend a substantial amount of time discussing the reading. (Those readings are marked with an asterisk on the course schedule.) Be prepared to engage actively in discussions on those days.
Your work will be assigned letter grades that follow this scale:

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100 – 96%</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>95 – 93%</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>C</td>
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**Course Policies**

**Attendance**
Please try not to miss any of our class meetings. If you must miss a class meeting, please inform me well in advance (unless you face an emergency, of course). If you reach three unexcused absences, you will receive an ‘E’ for your overall discussion grade, regardless of active participation on days you attended. Please note that if you arrive late, you will not receive full credit for attendance.

If you must arrive late or leave early, you must do so as unobtrusively as possible. Do not exit and re-enter to make phone calls, check e-mail, etc. Refrain from talking, sending e-mails or text messages, instant messaging, social media, reading non-course materials, sleeping, or other distracting activities. Engaging in these activities may lower your participation grade.

Excused absences include:

- Medical emergencies documented by healthcare provider or other relevant, professional third parties*
- A court appearance*
- Unavoidable conflicts approved beforehand by the professor
- Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean’s designee). See: [http://uhap.web.arizona.edu/chapter_7#7.04.02](http://uhap.web.arizona.edu/chapter_7#7.04.02)
- Holidays or special events observed by organized religions (for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion)
- Medical or other unavoidable emergencies approved by the Dean of Students after the fact

* Failure to submit third-party documentation will result in unexcused absences.

The UA’s policy concerning Class Attendance and Administrative Drops is available at: [http://catalog.arizona.edu/2014-15/policies/classatten.htm](http://catalog.arizona.edu/2014-15/policies/classatten.htm)

The UA policy regarding absences on and accommodation of religious holidays is available at [http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies-and-codes/accommodation-religious-observance-andpractice](http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies-and-codes/accommodation-religious-observance-andpractice).
Technology
Upon arrival, turn OFF your cell phone and store it away.

Any video, visual, or audio recording of lectures and/or discussions by any device is prohibited.

D2L
Please check the D2L course site regularly, since I often post news and updates there. You can also find a copy of the syllabus and additional readings on the site.

University Policies

Classroom behavior
For UA policies concerning disruptive behavior in class, see: http://policy.arizona.edu/disruptive-behavior-instructional

Plagiarism
Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. All assignments performed for this course must be original and must be performed individually unless otherwise noted. Every incident of academic dishonesty will be strictly punished. The history department mandates that academic dishonesty be punished by a failing grade for the course. Additional sanctions may include a permanent record on your academic transcript and suspension or expulsion from the university. For more information on UA policies concerning academic integrity, please see: http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity

Notification Regarding Disability
It is the University’s goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let Professor Steptoe know immediately. You are also welcome to contact Disability Resources (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations. Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable. (For the Disability Resource Center’s statement on syllabi, please see: http://drc.arizona.edu/faculty-staff/syllabus-statement)

Policies against Threatening Behavior by Students
Threatening behavior—including any statement, communication, conduct, or gesture that causes a reasonable apprehension of physical harm to a person or property—will not be tolerated. Sanctions may include suspension, expulsion, arrest, and criminal prosecution. For more information on UA policies concerning threatening behavior, please see: http://policy.web.arizona.edu/threatening-behavior-students
Course Schedule

Unit I: Constructing the Color Line in British North America

August 22 Course Intro

August 29 Constructing Race in Colonial America
Reading


September 5 Labor Day

September 12 Africa in the Americas
Reading
*Gomez, Exchanging Our Country Marks.*

September 19 Sex and Southern Society
Reading
*Rothman, Notorious in the Neighborhood.*

September 26 Making Whiteness in the Urban North
Reading
October 3  
**Constructing Race Through Culture**  
Reading  

*** Exam #1 distributed in class on October 3rd. ***

October 10  
Exam #1 due by 6:00 p.m. Upload your essay to the appropriate Assignments folder on D2L.

**Unit II: Multiethnic Wests**

October 17  
**Slavery and Freedom in the West**  
Reading  
Begin Tiya Miles, *Ties That Bind*.

October 24  
**Race, Ethnicity, and Family in Indian Country**  
Reading  
*Complete Tiya Miles, *Ties That Bind*.

October 31  
**The Northern Borderlands**  
Reading  
Begin Mitchell, *Coyote Nation*.

November 7  
**Sexuality and Power in the Southwest**  
Reading  
*Complete Mitchell, *Coyote Nation*.

November 14  
**Constructing Race Through Law**  
Reading  
Begin Steptoe, *Houston Bound*.

November 21  
**Race, Ethnicity, and Culture in Multiethnic Cities**  
Reading  
*Complete Steptoe, *Houston Bound*. 
November 28  
**Ethnicity, Hybridity, and Popular Music**  
Reading  
*Dustin Tahmahkera, “An Indian in a White Man’s Camp”: Johnny Cash’s Indian Country Music,”* *American Quarterly* 63, no. 3 (September 2011) pp. 591-617.  

December 5  
**Ancestry and Identity**  
Reading  
*Alondra Nelson, “DNA Ethnicity as Black Social Action?”*  

*** Exam #2 distributed in class on December 5. ***

Exam #2 due by 6:00 p.m. on December 14, 2016. Upload your essay to the appropriate Assignments folder on D2L.