

# Promised Lands and Immigrants

RSHR 8427 Fall 2011

Starr King School for the Ministry, Graduate Theological Union

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## Syllabus

### Course Description:

This course encompasses the study of **racial/ethnic**, **gender** and **religious** identity negotiations of **Latina/o migrants** both from theoretical literature as well as case studies. The many issues entailed to migratory patterns such as those of Latina/o migrants are examined through an interdisciplinary approach. The literature from the many disciplines involved in the study on these topics is vast, hence you are expected to be familiar with the main themes as viewed in class. The main goal of this course is to provide the student/s with the basic knowledge on the many issues present in the migratory pathways of Latina/o migrants to the U.S. and Japan.

Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

- (1) Be familiar with the different conceptions of racial formations and ethnic relations in the U.S. and Japan that provide the wider social context where Latina/o migrants incorporate;
- (2) Identify the pivotal theoretical concepts that allow us to understand broader Latina/o migration experiences according to different geographical, social and historical realities; and
- (3) Examine the particular experiences of race/ethnicity; gender; and faith present in the daily life of Latina/o Im/Migrants within the context of the U.S. and Japan.

As aforementioned, the literature on race/ethnicity, gender, religion, and migration is extensive, especially when those themes are examined throughout varied disciplines such as ethnic studies, sociology, anthropology, cultural studies, gender studies, migration studies, and religious studies. In this course we are able to just glimpse at the surface of the manifold realities of the intersection of those axis. We will select representative authors from those various disciplines in order to understand the issues at best. By contrasting two cases of migration destinations, namely the United States and Japan, you will discover familiar trends as well as particularities that may guide you, either in further studies, research, fieldwork, or pastoral work, to understand the experiences of Latina/o migrants.

Japan and the United States share a relatively short history of modern Latina/o migration,

around 30 years for Japan and around 150 years for the U.S. People from Latin American countries have intermittently migrated back-and-forth to and from them. In order to understand both situations, we will also pay attention to the of study historical migrations, especially in the Americas. However, the period studied in this class ranges mainly from the late 1800s to the present time in both cases.

The first section of the course will focus on general theoretical themes that cut across the course's cases. It will provide you with tools to analyze the experiences of Latina/o migrants in general. The second section will focus first on the case of the United States and then on the case of Japan. We will also locate the particular understandings of race/ethnicity, gender and religion in every case in order to understand the nuances of identity negotiations of Latina/o migrants in both contexts. The third and last section of the course deals with commonalities and disparities among the two migration experiences as a way to provide for further reflection on glocal identity negotiations.

## **Course Materials:**

All the course materials will be available on GTU Moodle. The reading materials will be available in PDF format. Audio-visual materials will be posted when technical means make this possible.

## **Course Requirements:**

1. **Commitment to the character of the course:** This course will be taught as an on-line course. Students are expected to have both the desire and the motivation to participate in a style that differs from that of a regular classroom. As the class relies in technological elements, students should be able to feel comfortable communicating through chat, webcam, internet phone, and/or email. Students will also be required to post their course assignments through the web. Although students are not required to have any previous background in educational technology, their motivation constitute a core element for the advance of the whole class.

2. **Completion of all course requirements.** Those requirements include:

a) Reading/viewing/listening to the weekly materials posted on Moodle. These materials are divided in two categories, namely required and optional. You must complete the work on the required materials in order to obtain your grade. Optional materials are kept to a minimum but for students who would like to expand their knowledge of a topic, the instructor can provide more optional materials upon request.

b) Posting reflections on the discussion board (equivalent to one page) every week based on the assigned materials (mainly the required materials but elaborations on the optional materials are welcomed). They are **reflection** papers, thus I am not interested in summaries of class material. Rather, the goal is to discuss the elaboration of ideas by the student/s from their own experiences, backgrounds, and analysis. In some situations, these reflections could also be replaced with video-messages, paintings, photographs, or any other visual/audio/written mean that would convey the reflection of the student/s on the assigned materials.

c) Interacting with the other students by responding to their interventions on the discussion

board. Although you are not required to always agree with your peers, respect and politeness are **expected** on these responses. You are also expected to interact a minimum of three times per week on the discussion board in order to get your grade. You have the right to be absent three times from the class (equivalent to one week) throughout the semester.

d) Submitting a final course project. The instructor will post a document with different options for the final course project by taking into account the diverse backgrounds of the students.

## **Final Grade:**

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Class Participation through Reflection Papers posted on the discussion board (30\%)} \\ + \\ \text{Interaction with the classmates by responding to their Reflection Papers on the discussion} \\ \text{board (30\%)} \\ + \\ \text{Submission of Final Class project (40\%)} \\ = \\ \text{Success in the class! (100\%)} \end{array}$$

## **Academic Conduct:**

Throughout the course you are expected and encouraged to maintain an academic spirit. Respect for the opinion and right of expression of your fellow classmates is mandatory. Inclusive and non-discriminatory language is expected in spoken and written formats whenever is possible.

Your ideas and work as well as others' are valued in this class. Taking words, graphics, and/or ideas from any other sources without full attribution constitutes an academic offense. Proper citation must be given to all formats of production (written, visual, auditive). Many students cut-and-paste directly from the internet. Although there is no reason to dismiss citation from the internet -when authorship, URL address and date of accessing the website is properly given-, lack of these element **also** constitute plagiarism. Whenever in doubt on how to proceed on this issue, please contact the instructor **before** you submit your materials through the discussion board. To learn the basis for appropriate academic conduct is an ongoing process, and as your instructor I will always be willing to assist you.

## **Reading Assignments and class schedule:**

Virtual exposition: Carlos Kajiwarra, *Dream Visions* (1994-2009), 16 works.

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## Section I: Theoretical Tools and Intersections

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### **Week 1 (Sep 5-11): Race and Ethnicity: Basic Concepts**

Required materials:

- ✓ Isajiw, Wsevolod W. 1993. "Definition and Dimensions of Ethnicity: A Theoretical Framework." In *Challenges of Measuring an Ethnic World: Science, politics and reality: Proceedings of the Joint Canada-United States Conference on the Measurement of Ethnicity April 1-3, 1992*, eds. Statistics Canada and U.S. Bureau of the Census. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, pp. 407-427.
- ✓ Gould, Stephen Jay. 1994. "The Geometer of Race," *Discover* (November). <<http://discovermagazine.com/1994/nov/thegeometerofrac441>> [Accessed June 25, 2011].

Optional materials:

- ✓ Bhabha, Homi. 2001. "'Race' Time and the Revision of Modernity." In *Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader*, ed. Les Back and John Solomos. New York, NY: Routledge, pp. 354-368.
- ✓ Grosfoguel, Ramón. 2004. "Race and Ethnicity or Racialized Ethnicities? Identities within Global Coloniality." *Ethnicities* 4, No.3, pp. 315-336.

### **Week 2 (Sep 12-18): Race: Biological Fact or Social Construction?**

Required materials:

- ✓ Sanjek, Roger. 1996. "The Enduring Inequalities of Race." In *Race*, eds. Steven Gregory, and Roger Sanjek. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1996, pp. 1-17.
- ✓ Smedley, Audrey. 1998. "'Race' and the Construction of Human Identity." *American Anthropologist (New Series)* 100, No. 3 (September), pp. 690-702.
- ✓ Sharfstein, Daniel J. 2007. "Crossing the Color Line: Racial Migration and the One-Drop Rule, 1600–1860." *Minnesota Law Review* 91, pp. 592-656.

Optional materials:

- ✓ Jacobsen, Matthew Frye. 1998. *Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, pp. 91-135.
- ✓ Alland, Alexander Jr. 2002. *Race in Mind: Race, IQ, and Other Racisms*. New York, NY: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 39-55.

### **Week 3 (Sep 19-25): Constructing Ethnic Identities and Culture**

Required materials:

- ✓ Cohen, Abner. 1974. "Introduction: The Lesson of Ethnicity." In *Urban Ethnicity*, ed. A. Cohen. London: Tavistock, 1974, pp. ix-xxiv.
- ✓ Sanders, Jimmy M. 2002. "Ethnic Boundaries and Identity in Plural Societies." *Annual Review of Sociology* 28, pp. 327-357.

Optional materials:

- ✓ Baumann, Martin. 2000. "Diaspora: Genealogies of Semantics and Transcultural Comparison." *Numen* 47, pp. 313-337.
- ✓ Nagel, Joane. 1997. *American Indian Ethnic Renewal: Red Power and the Resurgence of Identity and Culture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 19-59.

### **Week 4 (Sep 26-Oct 2): Racial Formation, Ethnicity and Migration**

Required materials:

- ✓ Bashi, Vilna, and Antonio McDaniel. 1997. "A Theory of Immigration and Racial Stratification." *Journal of Black Studies* 27, No. 5 (May), pp. 668-682.
- ✓ Yoshino, Kosaku. 1997. "The Discourse on Blood and Racial Identity in Contemporary Japan." In *The Construction of Racial Identities in China and Japan: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*, ed. Frank Dikötter. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai'i Press, pp. 199-211.
- ✓ Kidder, Louise H. 1992. "Requirements for Being 'Japanese': Stories of Returnees." *International Journal of Intercultural Relations* 16, pp. 383-393.

Optional materials:

- ✓ Sheriff, Robin E. 2001. *Dreaming Equality: Color, Race, and Racism in Urban Brazil*. Piscataway, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 28-58.
- ✓ Sansone, Livio. 2003. *Blackness without Ethnicity: Constructing Race in Brazil*. New York, NY: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 21-58.

### **Week 5 (Oct 3-9): Promised Lands: Migrations and Religion**

Required materials:

- ✓ Hirschman, Charles. 2004. "The Role of Religion in the Origins and Adaptations of Immigrant Groups." *The International Migration Review* 38, pp. 1206-1233.
- ✓ Cullen, Jim. 2003. *The American Dream: A Short History of an Idea that Shaped a Nation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 11-34.
- ✓ An, Youn Tae. 2008. "No longer strangers and aliens... Deleuzian reading of home as a multiple, fluid, and peripatetic space." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR), Chicago, IL, November 3.

*Optional materials:*

- ✓ Levitt, Peggy. 2003. "You Know, Abraham was Really the First Immigrant": Religion and Transnational Migration." *International Migration Review* 37, No. 3 (Fall), pp. 847-873.
- ✓ Córdova Quero, Hugo. 2009. "Promised Land(s)? Ethnicity, Cultural Identity, and Transnational Migration among Japanese Brazilian Workers in Japan." *Iberoamericana* 31, No. 1 (Primer Semestre), pp. 19-33.

**Week 6 (Oct 10-16): Ethnicity, Migrations, and Gender**

Required materials:

- ✓ Oishi, Nana. 2002. *Gender and Migration: An Integrative Approach* (CCIS Working paper No. 49). San Diego, CA: Center for Comparative Immigration Studies / University of California-San Diego.
- ✓ Harzig, Christiane. 2001. "Women Migrants as Global and Local Agents: New Research Strategies on Gender and Migration." In *Women, Gender and Labour Migration. Historical and Global Perspectives*, ed. Pamela Sharpe. London: Routledge, pp. 15-28.

*Optional materials:*

- ✓ Frable, Deborrah E. S. 1997. "Gender, Racial, Ethnic, Sexual, and Class Identities." *Annual Review of Psychology* 48, pp. 139-162.

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## **Section II: Case Studies**

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**(a) Case 1: Latinas/os in the United States**

**Week 7 (Oct 17-23): Migration and Ethnic/Racial Formations**

Required materials:

- ✓ Portes, Alejandro. 2007. "The New Latin Nation: Immigration and the Hispanic Population of the United States." In *A Companion to Latina/o Studies*, ed. Juan Flores and Renato Rosaldo. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007, pp. 15-24.
- ✓ Hitlin, Steven, J. Scott Brown, and Glen H. Elder, Jr. 2007. "Measuring Latinos: Racial vs. Ethnic Classification and Self-Understandings." *Social Forces* 86, No. 2 (December), pp. 587-611.

*Optional materials:*

- ✓ Zavella, Patricia. 2000. "Latinos in the USA: Changing Socio-Economic Patterns." *Social & Cultural Geography* 1, No. 2, pp. 155-167.
- ✓ Calderon, Jose. 1992. "'Hispanic' and 'Latino': The Viability of Categories for Pan-Ethnic Unity." *Latin American Perspectives* 19, No. 4 (Spring), pp. 37-44.

- ✓ Chomsky, Aviva. 2007. *“They Take Our Jobs!” And 20 Other Myths about Immigration*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, pp. 91-102.

**Week 8 (Oct 24-30): Reading Week**

**Week 9 (Oct 31-Nov 6): Faith and Ethnic Identities**

Required materials:

- ✓ Espin, Orlando O. 1997. *The Faith of the People*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1997, pp. 111-155.
- ✓ Siqueira, C. Eduardo and Cileine de Lourenço. 2006. “Brazilians in Massachusetts: Migration, Identity and Work.” In *Latinos in New England*, ed. Andrés Torres. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2006, pp. 187-201.
- ✓ Aquino, Jorge A. 2006. “‘Ni Blancitos, Ni Negritos’: Race, Nation, and Identity in U.S. Latino/a Theology.” Berkeley, CA: Graduate Theological Union, 2006, Doctoral dissertation, pp. 57-88.

Optional materials:

- ✓ Vasquez, Manuel A. and Marie F. Marquardt. 2003. *Globalizing the Sacred: Religion Across the Americas*. Piscataway, NJ: Rutgers University Press, pp. 65-91.
- ✓ Ospino, Hosffiman. 2006. “Latino Catholics in New England.” In *Latinos in New England*, ed. Andrés Torres. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2006, pp. 203-221.

**Week 10 (Nov 7-13): Gender and Ethnic Identities**

Required materials:

- ✓ Negrón-Muntaner, Frances. 2004. *Boricua Pop: Puerto Ricans and the Latinization of American Culture*. New York, NY: New York University Press, pp. 228-246.
- ✓ Ibarra, Maria de la Luz. 2002. “Buscando la Vida: Mexican Immigrant Women's Memories of Home, Yearning, and Border Crossings.” *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies* 24, Nos. 2-3, pp. 261-281.

Optional materials:

- ✓ Zavella, Patricia. 1997. “‘Playing with Fire’: The Gendered Construction of Chicana/Mexicana Sexuality.” In *The Gender/Sexuality Reader: Culture, History, Political Economy*, ed. Roger N. Lancaster and Micaela Di Leonardo. New York, NY: Routledge, pp. 392-408.

## **(b) Case 2: Latinas/os in Japan**

### **Week 11 (Nov 14-20): Migration and Ethnic/Racial Formations (I)**

Required materials:

- ✓ Maxwell, Roberto (dir. and prod.). 2006. *Dekasegi*. 8 minutes 43 seconds, Tokyo, DVD.
- ✓ Tsuda, Takeyuki. 2000. *Migration and Alienation: Japanese-Brazilian Return Migrants and the Search for Homeland Abroad* (CCIS Working Paper No. 24). San Diego, CA: The Center for Comparative Immigration Studies / University of California at San Diego.
- ✓ Yamashiro, Jane H. 2008. "Nikkeijin." In *Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Society*, ed. Richard T. Schaefer. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2008, pp. 983-985.

Optional materials:

- ✓ Reyes-Ruiz, Rafael. 2005. "Music and the (Re)Creation of Latino Culture in Japan." *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies* 14, No. 2 (August), pp. 223-239.

### **Week 12 (Nov 21-27): Migration and Ethnic/Racial Formations (II)**

Required materials:

- ✓ Yamamoto, Ricardo. 2002-2008. *Partida* [Leaving]. Photo-documentary. Tokyo.
- ✓ Takenaka, Ayumi. 2003. "Paradoxes of ethnicity-based immigration Peruvian and Japanese-Peruvian migrants in Japan." In *Global Japan The experience of Japan's New Immigrant and Overseas Communities*, ed. Roger Goodman, Ceri Peach, Ayumi Takenaka, and Paul White. London: RoutledgeCurzon, pp. 222-235.
- ✓ Yamamoto, Ricardo. 2008. "Sidelight: A Visual Insight About Brazilian Immigrants to Japan from the Perspective of Another Brazilian Immigrant to Japan." In *Sociedade Japonesa e Migrantes Brasileiros: Novos Caminhos na Formação de uma Rede de Pesquisadores*, ed. Chiyoko Mita and others. Tokyo: Center for Lusophone Studies, Sophia University, pp. 102-110.

Optional materials:

- ✓ Lu, Catherine, Toshihiro Menju, and Melissa Williams. 2005. "Japan and 'The Other': Reconceiving Japanese Citizenship in the Era of Globalization." *Asian Perspective* 29, No. 1, pp. 99-134.
- ✓ Takenoshita, Hirohisa. 2006. "The Differential Incorporation into Japanese Labor Market: A Comparative Study of Japanese Brazilians and Professional Chinese Migrants." *The Japanese Journal of Population* 4, No. 1 (March), pp. 56-77.

### **Week 13 (Nov 28-Dec 4): Faith and Ethnic Identities**

Required materials:

- ✓ Milani, Olmes. 2008. "Brazilians and the Liturgy in Japan." *Japan Mission Journal* 62, No.2 (Summer), pp. 110-115.

- ✓ Kawaguchi, Kaoru. 2007. "Toward a Multi-Cultural Church Community." *Japan Mission Journal* 61, No. 2 (Summer), pp. 93-100.

*Optional materials:*

- ✓ Shoji, Rafael. 2008. "The Failed Prophecy of Shinto Nationalism and the Rise of Japanese Brazilian Catholicism." *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 35, No. 1, pp. 13–38.
- ✓ Córdova Quero, Hugo. 2007. "Worshipping in (Un)Familiar Land: Brazilian *Nikkeijin* Migrants within the Roman Catholic Church in Japan." *Encontros Lusófonos* 9, pp. 25-37.

**Week 14 (Dec 5-11): Gender and Ethnic Identities**

Required materials:

- ✓ Yamamoto, Ricardo. 2009. *At Mid-Distance*. Photo-documentary. Tokyo.
- ✓ Yamanaka, Keiko. 2003. "Feminized Migration, Community Activism and Grassroots Transnationalization in Japan." *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal* 12, Nos. 1-2, pp. 155-187.
- ✓ Yamanaka, Keiko. 1993. "New Immigration Policy and Unskilled Foreign Workers in Japan." *Pacific Affairs* 66, No. 1 (Spring), pp. 72-90.

*Optional materials:*

- ✓ Hara, Minako. 1996. "Lesbians and Sexual Self-Determination." In *Voices from the Japanese Women's Movement*, ed. AMPO – Japan Asian Quarterly Review. Armonk, NY: East Gate Books, pp. 129-132.

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## Section III: Conclusions

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**Week 15 (Dec 12-16): Promise Lands: Coincidences and Divergences**

Required materials:

- ✓ Tsuda, Takeyuki and Wayne A. Cornelius. 2002. *Labor Market Incorporation of Immigrants in Japan and the United States: A Comparative Analysis* (CCIS Working Paper No. 50). San Diego, CA: The Center for Comparative Immigration Studies / University of California at San Diego.
- ✓ Bonifacio, Glenda Tibe and Vivienne SM. Angeles. 2010. "Introduction." In *Gender, Religion, and Migration: Pathways of Integration*, ed. Glenda Tibe Bonifacio and Vivienne SM. Angeles. Lanham, MD: Lexington, pp. 1-16.
- ✓ Sunderhaus, Sebastian. 2006. *Regularization Programs for Undocumented Migrants* (CCIS Working Paper No. 142) San Diego, CA: The Center for Comparative Immigration Studies / University of California at San Diego.

*Optional materials:*

- ✓ Bonilla Silva, Eduardo. 2004. "From Bi Racial to Tri Racial: Towards a New System of Racial Stratification in the USA." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 27, No. 6, pp. 931-50.
- ✓ Wallerstein, Immanuel. 2007. "Japan, the United States, and the World-Economy." *Agence Global* (15 October) <<http://www.agenceglobal.com/article.asp?id=1384>> [Accessed April 2, 2008].