Fall 2020 Course Description

Instructor: Vanita Reddy
Course: ENGL 481
Title: Race, Sex, Empire

Description: What does the study of race have to do with the study of sex and sexuality, and vice versa? This course will explore how the United States—alongside other imperial nations—established itself as a global empire throughout the long 20th century and into the beginning of this one through the racial and sexual management of its colonized populations. This course combines the insights of postcolonial and critical race theory—which have been concerned with the material and discursive effects of the historical condition of colonialism and race—with the insights of queer theory—which has been concerned with the material and discursive effects of power usually in terms of sex and sexuality. We will read a range of theoretical, historical, and literary texts that illuminate the intersections between these two fields of thought over the course of the long 20th and early 21st centuries.

Lowe, Lisa. The Intimacies of Four Continents (2015)
Mira Nair, Mississippi Masala (1991)
Manijeh Nasrabadi "Reading Fannie Mae Lou Hamer in Tehran" (2018)
Edward Said, Orientalism (excerpts) (1978)
Michel Foucault, The History of Sexuality (excerpts) (1977)
Toni Morrison, Beloved (1986)
Cherrie Moraga, Giving up the Ghost (1986)
Gloria Anzaldúa, Borderlands (1987)