

Mixing It Up: A Global Intellectual History of Race and Miscegenation

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is specially planned for those students interested in pursuing post-graduate studies. It examines the enduring connection between race, ethnicity and politics in the Global South during the twentieth century. The module analyses the way different countries around the world engaged with the notion of race to build their visions of the nation after colonialism. In particular, the course looks at the history of Mexico, India, Brazil and South Africa. The selection of these cases will allow students to analyse and compare how different imperial traditions influenced different legacies and attitudes towards race around the world. The course starts with an introduction to the history of race and ethnicity as concepts. This is followed by a brief overview of the different meanings of race through time. Then, the course turns to particular historical approaches to race and ethnicity ranging from the Mexican project of racial and cultural mixing (*mestizaje*) to the politics of legal segregation (*apartheid*) in South Africa; and from the intellectual connections between race and caste in India to the idealisation of a 'racial democracy' in Brazil. By analysing a selection of important primary and secondary sources, this module shows the multifarious ways in which Global South intellectuals thought about and transformed the concept of race to pursue different political objectives. This course also evaluates the way race and ethnicity continue to shape and expand our understanding of broader historical and political processes both in the Global South and elsewhere in the world.

Module Aims and Objectives

On completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Analyse and comment on the primary and secondary sources they have studied.
- Understand the main historical debates around the question of race in the twentieth century.
- Comment on the different political implications of race during the building nation processes of Mexico, India, Brazil and South Africa.
- Develop an in-depth historical argument about the connection between race, ethnicity and politics.

Teaching Methods and Assessment

11 x 3 hour seminars – Level 3. Each session will consist of a presentation by the lecturer, an activity and a student-led discussion.

1 Book review of 2000 words (40%); Assessed essay of 2500 words (60%).

Module Outline

1. Race and ethnicity: Blood, culture, or looks?
2. Discovering difference: From colonisation to scientific racism.
3. Spaniards, creoles and Indios: Mexico before the Revolution.
4. Vasconcelos and the cosmic race: Creating a mestizo (mixed) population.
5. Britons, Aryans and Dravidians: Race meets caste.
6. Unity within diversity: Ambedkar, Thakkar and the racial conception of Dalits and Adivasis.
7. Portuguese, Indians and Africans in the Amazonia.
8. Gilberto Freyre and Brazil's racial democracy.
9. Boers, Britons and Africans: The foundations of Apartheid.
10. The Mandela years: From Apartheid to desegregation.
11. The rise of multiculturalism or the rejection of race?

Sample Readings

Race and ethnicity – Malik, K. *The Meaning of Race: Race, History and Culture in Western Society* (New York, 1996); Turda, M. and Quine, M.S. *Historicizing Race* (London, 2018); Wade, P. *Race: An Introduction* (Cambridge, 2015). **Mexico** - Roseblatt, K. *The Science and Politics of Race in Mexico and the United States, 1910-1950* (Chapel Hill, 2018); Vasconcelos, J. *The Cosmic Race* (Baltimore, 1979). **India** – Banerjee-Dube, I. 'Caste, race and difference: The limits of knowledge and resistance', *Current Sociology*, Vol. 62. No. 4 (March 2014), pp. 512-530; Robb, P. *The Concept of Race in South Asia* (Delhi, 1995). **Brazil** – Freyre, G. *The Masters and the Slaves* (Berkeley, 1986); **South Africa** – Dubow, S. *Scientific Racism in Modern South Africa* (Cambridge, 1995);