

FW 2023-24

AP/EN 2014 3.0M	What Was Race? (Race: Theory and Literature I)
Course Director:	Sheetala Bhat
Time:	Thursday, 4:00-7:00 pm
Delivery Format:	SEMINAR
Description:	<p>Race has been central to our contemporary political and social realities. From BLM and George Floyd, to unmarked graves of Indigenous children from residential schools, and to racial disparities in response to refugee crises race is ubiquitous, and it shapes our worlds. Efforts towards racial justice and decolonization have proved to be an ethical necessity for institutions, society, and individuals.</p> <p>To study race, we need to consider its entanglements with history, gender, class, and colonization. This course helps students understand our everyday experiences of race and political landscapes today through a study of literature and theory on race from antiquity to the late 20th century. Reading short stories, plays, novels, poems, and philosophical and political treatises, we will explore conceptions of race in Greek antiquity and join modern anti-colonial playwrights such as Anthul Fugardo as they reimagine race in Greek tragedies; read outlandish medieval travel narratives about racialized others, which inspired colonial explorers like Christopher Columbus; examine interconnections between European liberalism and transatlantic slavery; visit Indian courtesans and learn about Orientalism in literature; follow debates about politics of writing in English in Africa between Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o and Chinua Achebe; enter a formerly enslaved Black family’s home, which is haunted by a spirit, in post-Civil War America; and learn from Indigenous women writers about connections between bodily, narrative, and political sovereignty.</p>
Category:	N/A
Historical Requirement:	N/A
Requirements:	Reading response (15%) Class tests (15%)

	Creative work (15%) Research paper (20%) Final exam (15%) Participation (15%)
Reading List:	Athol Fugard, <i>The Island</i> William Shakespeare, <i>Othello</i> Rudyard Kipling, "On the City Wall" Chinua Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> Mahasweta Devi, "Draupadi" Monique Mojica, <i>Princess Pocahontas and the Blue Spots</i>
Open To:	Years 1, 2, 3