

REPRESENTING IDENTITIES **(updated 1/23/06)**

FS 118 (unique # 35885), Spring 2006
The University of Texas at Austin

Instructor:

Pauline T. Strong, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Anthropology
Office hours: W 1:30-3:30 PM
E.P. Schoch 1.140, 471-8524
pstrong@mail.utexas.edu

Teaching Assistant:

Stephanie Caples
<stephanie24@yahoo.com>
Office hours: W 1:00-2:00 PM
Location TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Forum Seminars are one-hour courses sponsored by Connexus, an undergraduate initiative dedicated to enhance undergraduate education. Forum Seminars are designed to introduce undergraduates to a variety of faculty, disciplines, and interdisciplinary programs. (The Connexus office, FAC 1, and the Connexus home page, www.utexas.edu/student/connexus, has more information on Connexus, Forum Seminars, and interdisciplinary programs at UT. The telephone number is 232-7585.)

Representing Identities is a Forum Seminar concerning interdisciplinary studies of representation. How are cultural, racial, ethnic, religious, national, and gender identities represented in contemporary media and performances? How are cultural differences represented? Who has the power to represent themselves and others? How are representations of identity and difference used to influence citizens and consumers? What is the impact of representations on individual experience? In this seminar faculty from a variety of disciplines will discuss their own research on these issues, and students will develop analyses of the representations they encounter in their daily lives. Faculty members from across campus will introduce students to the perspectives of their disciplines on these topics.

FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS:

The course meets on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5:15 PM in UTC 3.110. We will only meet during the first half of the semester. There will typically be one or more faculty guests followed by a period for discussion. We will often break into small discussion groups after the faculty presentation, and each group will be asked to formulate questions for the faculty guests.

Regular attendance and active participation in the small group discussion are critical for success in the course; absences will only be excused in the case of a serious illness or emergency.

Required readings for each week will be posted on Blackboard. The readings are typically short articles by the faculty guests, and should be read before class. An email will be sent to the students' official UT email addresses when a new reading has been posted.

Student presentations will be held on March 7. On this day there will be no faculty panel. Rather, each student (or group of students) will be responsible for giving a presentation on some aspect of the representation of identity.

Weekly response papers are due Fridays at 3:30 PM, and should be sent as e-mail messages to both the instructor and the teaching assistant. (See above for the e-mail addresses.) These are papers of 1-2 pages that respond to an issue raised in the seminar and/or the required

readings, preferably by making connections between the course material and the student's own experience. Response papers should reflect a serious engagement with one or more of the issues considered in the seminar and/or readings. The lowest grade will be dropped.

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

6 response papers	60% (10% each)
Attendance and small group participation	30%
Presentation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

COURSE SCHEDULE

- Jan 17** **Introduction: Representing Identities** (Prof. Strong)
Screening: "In Whose Honor? American Indian Mascots in Sports."
 Written & produced by Jay Rosenstein. Videotape. New Day Films, 1996. VIDCASS 8227 Audio Visual Library Reserves, FAC 341.
Reading: Pauline Turner Strong, "The Mascot Slot: Cultural Citizenship, Political Correctness, and Pseudo-Indian Sports Symbols," *Journal of Sport and Social Issues*, 23(1): 79-87, February 2004.
- Jan 24** **Representing Race in Television Broadcasting**
Guest: Prof. Don Heider, School of Journalism
Reading: *White News: Why Local News Programs Don't Cover People of Color*, chapter one. Mahway, NJ: L. Erlbaum Associates. (The reading will be distributed in class.)
- Jan 31** **Representing Gender and Sexuality**
Guest: Prof. Kamran Ali, Anthropology, Middle East Studies, & Women's and Gender Studies
Reading: to be posted on Blackboard
- Feb 7** **Theatrical Representations**
Guest: Prof. Jill Dolan, Department of Theater and Dance
Reading: to be posted on Blackboard
- Feb 14** **Representing Ethnicity**
Guests: Dr. Richard Flores, Professor of Anthropology and Mexican-American Studies, and Associate Dean of Liberal Arts
 Prof. Nhi Lieu, American Studies, Asian American Studies, and Women's and Gender Studies
Reading: to be posted on Blackboard
- Feb 21** **Representations of Women Athletes and Circus Performers**
Guests: Prof. Jan Todd, Department of Kinesiology
 Prof. Janet Davis, Department of American Studies
Reading: to be posted on Blackboard
- Feb 28** **Beyond Identities: Processes of Representation in Art and Science**
Guests: Prof. Linda Henderson, Department of Art and Art History
 Prof. Bruce Hunt, Department of History

Reading: to be posted on Blackboard

Mar 7 Student presentations & course-instructor survey