New Graduate Seminar!
Race and Ethnicity in Comparative Perspective
AMH 5930, Fall Semester 2018, University of Florida,
Wednesdays, 3 pm to 6 pm
Professor Paul Ortiz, portiz@ufl.edu

This interdisciplinary seminar explores the invention and reinvention(s) of race and ethnicity keying in on questions of power, resistance, and the fluidity of identities from the Age of Revolution to Black Lives Matter. Scholars have proven that race is a fiction, right? However, like Banquo’s Ghost, “It Will Not Down.” Race continues to dominate discourses of consumption, crime, war, education and citizenship—among other areas—while shaping unequal relations between individuals and nations.

We will explore a broad array of topics and research questions that can be greatly enriched by using race and ethnicity as a comparative lens of historical analysis. These include: race and modernity; empire and Orientalism; revolution; racial capitalism; Indigeneity and decolonization; Black Internationalism; Gender and sexuality; Segregation and re-segregation; Liberation and social movements; Immigration, forced migration, and non-citizenship; Critical Latino Studies; Neoliberalism and economic crises; critical whiteness studies; policing and mass incarceration in a transatlantic context; relational and intercultural approaches to the study of race and ethnicity.

This seminar will be especially helpful for students preparing reading/exam fields in topics intersecting with race, class, gender and power. Course assignments include weekly response papers and a final seminar paper which can take the form of a prospectus, an MA or dissertation chapter, a historiographical essay, etc. in consultation with the instructor.

Readings Include:

Patrisse Khan-Cullors & Asha Bandele, When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir
C.L.R. James, The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L’Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution
Cedric Robinson, Black Marxism
Edward W. Said, Culture and Imperialism
Laura E. Gómez, Manifest Destinies: The Making of the Mexican American Race
Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz, An Indigenous People’s History of the United States
Paul Ortiz, An African American and Latinx History of the United States
Ian Haney López, White by Law: The Legal Construction of Race
David Roediger, Class, Race and Marxism
Angela Davis, Blues Legacies and Black Feminism: Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith, and Billie Holiday
Jordan Camp, Incarcerating the Crisis: Freedom Struggles and the Rise of the Neoliberal State
Evelyn Nakano Glenn, Unequal Freedom: How Race and Gender Shaped American Citizenship and Labor
Frantz Fanon, Wretched of the Earth

About the Instructor: Paul Ortiz is director of the award-winning Samuel Proctor Oral History Program and associate professor of history at the University of Florida. He has published and taught in the fields of labor, Latinx Studies, African American history and social movement theory among other areas. He is a member of the editorial board for Kalfou: A Journal of Comparative and Relational Ethnic Studies, and a recipient of the Lillian Smith Book Award. His newest book, An African American and Latinx History of the United States, was named by Bustle Magazine as one of the “10 Books About Race to Read Instead of Asking a Person of Color to Explain Things to You.”