

## SYLLABUS DE COURS

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| <b>Intitulé du cours</b>     | <b>Race, State, and Society: A Transatlantic Perspective (Late 18th Century – Present)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                            |               |
| <b>Enseignant(e)</b>         | Sébastien Smiejczak                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                            |               |
| <b>Champ disciplinaire</b>   | History                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Mots clés</b>           |               |
| <b>Langue d'enseignement</b> | English                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Niveau</b>              | Bachelor      |
| <b>Semestre</b>              | Semestre 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Nombre d'ECTS</b>       | 4ECTS         |
| <b>Volume d'heures</b>       | 18hours                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Modalités d'examens</b> | To be defined |
| <b>Descriptif</b>            | <p>This course focuses on the construction and institutionalization of "race" as a political and social category in some states belonging to the Transatlantic world, with a focus on the USA and France. It integrates contributions from Critical Race Theory (CRT) and a rich American historiography by handling race not as a biological reality but as a "socially constructed" mindset and technology of power. We also use the intersectional approach by considering the role of gender and class when it comes to grasp the issue of the building of racial hierarchies.</p> <p>The course will challenge the traditional "color-blind" vs. "multicultural" dichotomy, frequently used to differentiate France and the United States, highlighting how both states have historically used the law and culture to maintain racial hierarchies. This comparative and transnational perspective will allow us to explore how two republics, both born from Enlightenment ideals and revolutions dealt with the contradictions of slavery, colonialism, segregation, and systemic inequality. Some insights on other spaces such as Brazil, Liberia and the Caribbean Islands will bring some relevant comparative views on those topics.</p> <p>After a methodological and notional introduction, sessions will deal with these topics :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the role of race in the Atlantic revolutions of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century ?</li> <li>• The building of a white republic and supremacy in the US (19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries)</li> <li>• The paradox of a "racial republic" in France</li> <li>• The development of a transatlantic scientific racism from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and how it has been challenged</li> <li>• Race, gender and religion: intersectional approach</li> <li>• Challenging the race divide during the 20<sup>th</sup> century</li> <li>• Contemporary issues and current memory debates</li> </ul> |                            |               |



## Bibliographie

This is a short list of possible readings for those who would like to get some knowledge on the subject. More will be provided for each session.

### General studies :

George FREDERICKSON, *Racism: A short history*, Princeton, 2015

*The Black Image in the White Mind : The Debate on Afro-American Character and Destiny, 1817-1914*, New York, 1971 : a classic of the historiography on the subject

Michael OMI, Howard WINANT, *Racial Formation in the United States*, 1984

Thomas F. GOSSETT, *Race: A History of an Idea in America*, New York, 1983

In French :

Denis LACORNE, *De la race en Amérique*, Gallimard, 2025

An extensive sociological essay :

Loïc WACQUANT, *Racial Domination*, Polity Press, 2024

### On the American Revolution:

Alan TAYLOR, *American Revolution. A Continental History*, 2017 (available at Bordeaux Montaigne library)

### On the French Revolution:

D.M.G SUTHERLAND, *The French Revolution and Empire : The Quest for a Civic Order*, Blackwell, 2003

### On the Haitian Revolution :

David P. GEGGUS (ed), *The Impact of the Haitian Revolution in the Atlantic World*, University of South Carolina Press, 2001 : especially, David Brion DAVIS, " The impact of the French and Haitian Revolutions".

### On Civil War and the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century:

Henry Louis GATES Jr, *Stony the Road. Reconstruction, White Supremacy and the Rise of Jim Crow*, Penguin Books, 2019

### On the Civil rights movement :

A book that settles the movement in a large chronology: Kate MASUR, *Until Justice be done: America's first Civil Rights Movement from Revolution to Reconstruction*, WW Norton, 2021

Michael CAPEK, *Civil Rights*, 2013

### On whiteness, a key concept for the course :

Matthew FRYE JACOBSON, *Whiteness of a Different Colour: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race*, Harvard University Press, 1999

For groundbreaking studies that changed the way we perceive Western ideas :

A must-read on another perspective for the political science : Charles W. MILLS, *The Racial Contract*, 1997

About patriarchy : Carol PETEMAN, *The Sexual Contract*,

About the production of history: Michel-Rolf TROUILLOT, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*, 1995

Toni MORRISON was not only a talented and Nobel Prized author, she was also a insightful academic writing on the meaning of race on an individual and collective scale



- *The Bluest Eye*
- *The Origin of Others*, Harvard University Press, 2017

Before her, another American writer mixed literature and activist writings that handled the issue of race and whiteness :

James BALDWIN, *Dark Days*, collected essays written between 1965 and 1985 published in one volume by Penguin Editions

**Articles (most of them are accessible by Jstor on Babord) :**

A seminal essay on the social construction of race as a historical analysis tool : Barbara J. FIELDS, " Ideology and Race in American History", in *Region, Race and Reconstruction. Essays in honor of C. Vann Woodward*, J. MORGAN KAUSSE, J.M.McPHERSON (ed), OUP, 1982

A methodological warning :

Frederick COOPER, "Race, Ideology, and the Perils of Comparative History", *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 101, 4

Howard WINANT, "Race and Race Theory", *Annual Review of Sociology*, vol. 2,(2000), pp. 169-185