Reparations and Human Rights

English 266.301
Spring 2014
TR 12-1:30PM
Fisher-Bennett Hall 201

Professor David Eng
Office Fisher-Bennett Hall 212
Office Hours T 1:30-3:00PM and by Appointment
Phone 215 746 3763
Email deng@english.upenn.edu

Description
The totalizing violence of World War II is considered the origin of a new concept of the human being and a new discourse of human rights after genocide and nuclear holocaust. Our seminar will interrogate this history in the context of Cold War Asia and through the critical framework of reparations. Reparation is a key term in political theory, but it is also a central concept in psychoanalysis (specifically object relations), yet the two are rarely discussed in relation to one another. This class will explore how political and psychic genealogies of reparation supplement one another in order to investigate the possibilities and limits of repairing war, violence, and colonialism in the trans-Pacific. We will be studying not only political and psychoanalytic theory but also a series of novels, memoirs, and films concerning the internment of Japanese Americans by the U.S. government during World War II; the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki ending that war; and contemporary legal claims by “comfort women,” young girls and women from Japan’s colonial empire conscripted into sexual slavery.

Required Texts
Chang-rae Lee, Gesture Life (New York: Riverhead, 200)

Critical Essays
Sigmund Freud, Beyond the Pleasure Principle (New York: WW Norton, 1961)

**LEGAL DOCUMENTS**
The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

(*) All critical essays and legal documents are available on Blackboard. Book orders for the required texts have been placed at the Penn Book Center (130 S. 34th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104; 215-222-7600).

**FILM**
Peter Blow, Village of Widows (1999)
Deann Borshay Liem, First Person Plural (2000)
Deann Borshay Liem, In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee (2010)
Rea Tajiri, History and Memory (1991)

**REQUIREMENTS**
Short Paper: A short response paper (3-4 typed pages) on one of the assigned readings is required during the course of the semester. You will post your
response to the class. In addition to serving as a starting point for class discussion, this reaction paper will provide an opportunity for dialogue with your peers outside of the classroom. 30%

Final Essay: A final term paper (8-10 pages) on a topic of your own devising will be due on Wednesday, 30 April 2014. You are required to meet with me during the final weeks of office hours to have your paper topic approved. Plagiarized work will result in an F for the course, and your case will be sent to the Office of Student Conduct. Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s work without fully acknowledging it. 50%

Class Participation: You are expected to do all the reading, to attend each class, and to participate actively in every discussion. More than three absences, including excused absences, will result in the lowering of your final mark by one letter grade. Coming to class more than ten minutes late and flagrant inattention during class will be marked as absences. You must bring your course texts to every class session, and all electronic devices must be shut off (laptops, tablets, phones, etc.). 20%

Extensions will be handed out only in the case of emergencies, and you must contact me in advance. All late papers—including approved extensions—will be graded down approximately one letter grade per day.
### Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 January</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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| 21, 23 January | Freud  
Caruth       | Freud  
Caruth            |
| 28, 30 January | Locke  
Tully        | Locke  
Tully            |
| 4, 6 February | Klein              | Klein                |
| 11, 13 February | Moyn  
UN Declaration | Moyn  
UN Convention |
| 18, 20 February | Arendt  
Slaughter | Biondi  
Buxbaum          |
| 25, 27 February | Hersey  
Hein          | Hersey               |
| 4, 6 March  | Tajiri  
Ngai  
Yoneyama | (No Class)           |
| 11, 13 March | Spring            | Recess               |
| 18, 20 March | *Pale View of the Hills*  
Ivy              | *Pale View of the Hills* |
| 25, 27 March | *Remains of the Day*  
Scheiber         | *Remains of the Day*  |
| 1, 3 April  | *Gesture Life*  
Barkan          | *Gesture Life*       |
| 8, 10 April | *First Person Plural*  
Nguyen          | *First Person Plural* |
| 15, 17 April | *In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee* | (Final Essay Session) |
| 22, 24 April | *The Surrendered*  
Kim            | *The Surrendered*     |
| 29 April   | *Village of Widows*  
Derrida        |                     |