This course will turn on three key terms: race, comparison, and time. What do these terms have to do with each other? What does it mean to be in time, or out of time? What are some other ways of inhabiting time, or of being inhabited by time? What is the time of the racialized subject? How might such a temporality be figured through literary representation? What is the time of comparison? We'll take up these and a host of other questions by working our way through writings ranging across the fields of the literary, anthropological, philosophical, linguistic, psychoanalytic, and sociological. Primary texts include: James Baldwin, *Notes of a Native Son*; Joy Kogawa, *Obasan*; Carlos Bulosan, *America Is in the Heart*; Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place*; Carolivia Herron, *Thereafter Johnnie*; Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, *Dictee*; and Johannes Fabian, *Time and the Other*. We'll also be reading essays by some of the following writers: Frantz Fanon, Dipesh Chakrabarty, W.E.B. Du Bois, Sigmund Freud, Cathy Caruth, Paul Ricoeur, Walter Benjamin, and Ernst Bloch.

Office Hours:
Tuesday 10:00-11:00
425 Rockefeller Hall (255-8055)
Or by appointment:
ssw6@cornell.edu
282 Goldwin Smith Hall (255-9310)
Required readings:

James Baldwin, Notes of a Native Son
Carlos Bulosan, America Is In the Heart
Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Dictee
Johannes Fabian, Time and the Other: How Anthropology Makes Its Object
Carolivia Herron, Thereafter Johnnie
Jamaica Kincaid, A Small Place
Joy Kogawa, Obasan

Additional short readings will be drawn from the following list (these readings will be available on Blackboard):

Frantz Fanon, Black Skin White Masks (the Grove Press edition translated by Charles Lam Markmann)
Paul Ricoeur, The Rule of Metaphor
Cathy Caruth, Unclaimed Experience
Sigmund Freud, Beyond the Pleasure Principle
Ernst Bloch, Heritage of Our Times
Dipesh Chakrabarty, Provincializing Europe
Selections from Chronotypes: The Construction of Time, eds. John Bender, David Wellbery
Natalie Melas, “Versions of Incommensurability”
Walter Benjamin, “On the Concept of History”
W.E.B. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk

Course Requirements:

- regular and punctual attendance and active participation in seminar discussion
- weekly postings to electronic discussion board
- writing assignments: one 5-6 page mid-term essay and one 12-15 page term paper

Syllabus (subject to change)

Week 2
September 2 – Labor Day Holiday

Week 3
September 9 – chronopolitics
- Johannes Fabian Time and the Other, preface and chapter 1 “Time and the Emerging Other”

Week 4
September 16 – the time of comparison
- Natalie Melas, “Versions of Incommensurability”
- Frantz Fanon, “The Fact of Blackness” from Black Skin White Masks
- W.E.B. Du Bois, “Of Our Spiritual Strivings” from The Souls of Black Folk
- James Baldwin, “Introduction,” “Autobiographical Notes,” and “Stranger in the Village” from Notes of a Native Son
Week 5
September 23 – no class today (rescheduled for Thursday, October 17th)

Week 6
September 30 – chronotypes: the poetics and politics of form
- Carlos Bulosan, America Is In the Heart
- Johannes Fabian, Time and the Other, chapter 2 “Our Time, Their Time, No Time: Coevalness Denied”

Week 7
October 7 – narrating otherness
- James Baldwin, “Many Thousands Gone,”
- Dipesh Chakrabarty, “The Idea of Provincializing Europe” from Provincializing Europe
- Johannes Fabian, chapter 3 “Time and Writing About the Other”
- Osamu Nishitani, “Anthropos and Humanitas: Two Western Concepts of ‘Human Being’”

Week 8
October 14 – fall break – no class today

October 17 – event and happening
- Jamaica Kincaid, A Small Place

Week 9
October 21 – waiting on the future and the past
- Sigmund Freud, excerpt from Beyond the Pleasure Principle
- Cathy Caruth, selections from Unclaimed Experience
- Ernst Bloch, selections from Heritage of Our Times
- Walter Benjamin, “On the Concept of History”

Week 10
October 28 – time and the ethics of waiting
- Joy Kogawa, Obasan

Week 11
November 4 – time and the ethics of waiting
- Joy Kogawa, Obasan

Week 12
November 11 – the time of the fathers
- Carolivia Herron, Thereafter Johnnie

Week 13
November 18 – the time of the fathers
- Carolivia Herron, Thereafter Johnnie

Week 14
November 25 – time and translation
- Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Dictee

Week 15
December 2 – time and translation
- Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Dictee