

November 4th Notes (Theme: Race and Ethnicity)

Race

- A “social fact” - term from Durkheim
- Values and norms that exercises social control
- Race a reality, but not a “natural” one (they become normalize through social structure)
- Race as component of social organization and identity formation
- Presentation of self in the everyday (Looking at Goffman)
- Talks about that we have an agency
- When we first make our presentation a aversion of yourself to the audience and we lock ourselves and can’t change it
- We are locked in to creating kinds of performance
- The interactions with each other (the three boys) and the interactions they have with the other people

La Haine

- Race as a social fact?
- Class as a social fact?
- Relation between the two
- Values and norms that exercise social control
- Exercises social control over everyone
- A small group (Hubert, Said, and Vinz, the way they tease and play with each other)
- The way this works with larger groups and institution

Ties to colonialism and “otherness” see Hall

- Colonialist tells colonized who they are
- Race as an essence - a “given”
- Fixed, constant meaning
- So inequalities are natural and permanent
- Segregation within "belly of the beast" (Hall)
- Descendants of North/central African colonies

Michael Omi and Howard Winant

- "Racial formation process”
- Racial identity and meaning
- Is "process-orientate and relational”
- Involves incoherent and conflictual racial meaning and identities

Racial formation addresses (Omi brings up these three Racial formation)

1. Contemporary politics relationship
 - ~ Meaning of race forever reconstituted in present - instability
2. Global context
 - ~ Geography of race more complex, internationalized across national polities
3. Historical (racial) time
 - ~ Long development of racial difference - tied to colonialism

Role of the media?

- Stuart Hall “The white to their eyes: racial ideologies and the media”

Ideology

- Articulated in chain of meaning (not isolated concepts)
- Not products of individual - pre-dates us
- Constructs positions of identification four subjects

- Ideology frames us sets us up to think about something

La Haine (hate)

- Mathieu Kassovitz, France, 1995
- Director and also an actor (has a small role in the end)
- Has a small role in the end as a skin head
- Over twenty-four hours
- In Paris and its suburbs (banlieu)
- The city is segregate, the suburbs is where it is mostly marginalized, the immigrant, 3rd or 4th generation French, still are consider the other
- The city center is where the upper middle class, white European are located
- The movie starts off after a night violent Protests

Notes on film: La Haine

- Conflict between class, race and ethnicity
 - ~ There is a clear separate between, upper, middle and lower class people
 - ~ The lower class are part of what is called the Housing project in the banlieu
- How those work race/ethnicity
- Institutions police
 - ~ You can see the police force have most of the power
 - ~ The scene where Said and Hubert are taking into interrogation and physically abused by the two men
- Media (institution)
 - ~ The scene between the television crew and the three boys.
 - ~ How the media makes up stories. “Trash news”
- In the suburbs you have a lot of working class, unemployed marginalized poor

- City social projects
- Housing complex (tower)
- This idea of “other”, the outsider (they are outside the city, they are literally marginalized)
- Transportation (institution)
 - ~ When they missed their last train to the suburbs so they were stuck sleeping in the shopping mall to wait for the next train in the morning
- Education (institution)
 - ~ They obviously have a low level of education
 - ~ You can see that during the whole 24 hours none of them go to school in the morning
 - ~ You even see the sister trying to do her homework
- Clash between the youth and the police
- Clash between the protagonist and a skinhead
- Art
 - ~ You see this class division in the when the three friends goes to the city
 - ~ They go to a late night art exhibition
 - ~ People in the art gallery are well dresses upper middle class citizens, making the protagonist stand out
- The local government
- Hospital
 - ~ Where their friend Abdel is after he was beat by the police and is now unconscious
- Family