



Iten 150: gender, text, and culture

racialized hauntings
ghosted embodiments

m/w 2-4:30pm summer session II 2014
instructor: june j. yuen ting

Geoffrey Weary, *Faraway*, 1991.

Gender/text/culture: in this somewhat unconventional “literature” class, we will see “culture” itself as “texts” to be read like literature, and take “gender” or better, the critiques of heteropatriarchy as the lens to analyze culture as texts. This course will explore “hauntings” as a genre of critical inquiry that attends to the surplused, unclaimed, and uncontainable relations of social reproduction/attrition. In doing so, we will examine how these relations pose questions to the empirical, juridical, and rational modes of *knowing* and *embodying* as well as *unknowing* and *disembodying* the enduring violence of slavery, genocide, imperialist war, and primitive accumulation. We will consider how “hauntings” mark the openings and limitations of contemporary fugitive cultural politics on the unspoken and unnamable racializing/gendering violence beyond the paradigms of citizenship, multiculturalism, and liberalism as well as the language of “rights,” “freedom,” and “sovereignty.” Guided by women of color feminisms as the primary framework of our conversations, we will study cultural and theoretical texts from Toni Morrison, Saidiya Hartman, Sharon Holland, Andrea Smith, Jodi Byrd, Alicia Schmidt Camacho, Rosa-Linda Fregoso, Mimi Thi Nguyen, Rea Tajiri, and Kara Walker.

*** CGS major/minor applicable course ***