

# Global Studies Faculty Seminar

January 2014 Meeting

Graduate Students of English

*Three graduate students will be able to help with airport pickups: Luke Heister, Erin Lynch, and Tana Taylor-Juko.*

Possible Discussion Topics for Mignolo's Meeting with Graduate Students

- 1. How to move scholarship beyond the walls of the academy and into the public sector*
- 2. How to broaden research horizons from within the framework of a given discipline*
- 3. How to combat the notion that literary criticism exists in a vacuum, as well as how to break away from armchair academic practice*

The relationship between social activism and intellectual findings (with regard to ecocriticism, ethno-racial marginalization, etc.)

Walter Mignolo Reading

*People do not generate and use knowledge from within a vacuum, but from specific positions along the axes of race, ethnicity, gender, nationality, sexuality, etc.—or, as Mignolo refers to it, the colonial matrix of power.*

*There's a tension in this essay between Mignolo's celebration of de-colonialism vs. liberal humanism.*

*Universalization is a dialectal element of particularization. The local and the global are dialectically productive.*

*Chela Sandoval's theory of differential consciousness (and her "clutch" analogy) speak to Mignolo's project in "Epistemic Disobedience, Independent Thought and De-Colonial Freedom."*

*The creation of a national subjectivity is something implicit in the study of history in today's universities.*

*Paul Jay's book, Global Matters, speaks to the things we're trying to accomplish in with the Global Studies Faculty Seminars*

*Ecocriticism posits counter universalisms to global capitalism. How do the strategies of disconnection we're reading about in Mignolo's work butt up against grassroots environmental movements that are connecting through virtual space?*

*If we're part of a world-system, where does all of this fit?*

*How is ecocritical discourse connecting to processes and methods of delinking?*

*There is a link between body-politics and environmental issues. With environmentalism, we're not rescuing a flag or a language, but a physical existence.*

*We need to be able to recognize when nature and people work together.*

*We're talking about a (post)human paradigm when we confront these issues of future knowledge.*

*Mignolo's mention of the body-politics connects to the mechanisms of the modern state. The control of the body in the modern state is something on which we should ruminate.*

*If you want to de-colonize the university, you need to talk across disciplines. The methods of doing so are rooted in the idiosyncrasies (processes) of the specific disciplines we're engaging.*

*Thinking about destabilizing disciplinary focus from within the framework of a discipline is something about which we should think.*

Ussama Makdisi Reading

*Rather than only threatening, difference is also productive.*

*Makdisi tries to show the contingencies that make people make decisions.*

*He does a lot of work on what peripheries mean to the center.*

Plans for Visiting Speaker Series

*Meeting with undergraduates*

*Meeting with graduate students*

*A number of dinners at Locust Street Inn*

*Public talks*

*Meeting with faculty group and administrators*

Makdisi

*He has a lot of thoughts on the emerging field of "U.S. and the World"*

Mignolo

*De-Colonizing the University?*