

Course Information

COMM 950D, “Rhetoric of Race and Masculinity”

Casey Kelly

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This course takes up race as a central antagonism in the rhetorical construction of masculinity in the United States. The history of American slavery, Jim Crow, nativism, and nationalism are all underwritten by a paranoid construction of Otherized masculinities—criminal, deviant, violent, and hypersexualized—that threaten the primacy of white Anglo-manhood. This racialized construction has been deployed as a justification for war, imperialism, lynching and other forms of judicial and extra-judicial violence against people of color. This seminar will critically examine the racial entailments of discourses, images, and representations of manhood to comprehend the perilous stakes of the so-called “crisis of masculinity.” The course will cover rhetorical constructions and performances of masculinity within racial formations in the United States, particularly where racialized masculinities intersect with queer and trans identity, blackness and anti-blackness, whiteness, Otherness, imperialism, coloniality, class, and ability.