

050:331

ETHNIC AMERICA: Beyond Tiger Woods: Thinking Comparatively in Race
and Ethnic Studies

Although a generation of scholars has argued that race is not a scientific reality, the concept has continued to play a profound and persistent role in organizing American life. What if we think of "race" not as something each of us "has" but as a creation of relationships? If we begin to think about race not as a biological idea, but rather as a social idea which serves the purpose of dividing, categorizing, and controlling populations, what opportunities for new kinds of social resistance become possible?

Can thinking about how styles of culture, dress, speech, and emotional display become signs of "race" help to unite communities? Looking at history, film, literature and popular culture about connections, conflicts and common ground among groups, the course begins to ask are there similar processes of racialization that, if studied, could help build alliances among African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, Native Americans and other Americans in national and global terms?