



Course Offerings

SPRING 2016

ETHN 3. Introduction to Ethnic Studies: Making Culture

Kamala Visweswaran

Through examining the historical and contemporary politics of representation in both popular and community-focused media, film, art, music, and literature, this course tracks racial formation through studying the sphere of cultural production, consumption, and contestation.

ETHN 87. Freshman Seminar: Listening to the World

Roshanak Kheshti

This seminar explores the history of listening to the music of the world. We will engage in active listening by critically examining how much musical composition, arrangement, recording, and production direct us to listen for familiar and different sounds in music. No musical training required.

ETHN 100C. Social Justice Praxis

Roshanak Kheshti

An intensive capstone experience for ethnic studies majors, this course combines an advanced exploration of praxis-based approaches to social justice with practicum-based independent campus, community, creative, or research projects.

ETHN 101. Ethnic Images in Film

Roshanak Kheshti

As objects that circulate in transnational social and commodity networks, films project ideas about the other and the self. Offering escape, titillation, information and exotification, films are meaningful when they (re)present the worlds audiences want to see. In this course we read films as social texts examining the systems through which they make gendered, ethnic, racial, sexual and national meaning. Through film theory we will additionally examine film spectatorship and the cultural codes attached to looking and perception. Though we will cover a vast array of genres we will highlight so-called “third cinema” and “The New Iranian cinema” as case studies.

ETHN 105. Ethnic Diversity and the City

Gabriel Mendes

Do you often wonder about relationship among race, ethnicity, and class in the social geography of where you live or where you grew up? Do you wonder about how national policies on development, housing, and taxation affect diverse localities? Do you wonder about things like gentrification, spatial segregation, grassroots organizing, and the politics of cultural self-definition? This course asks the fundamental question of how “the city” is experienced and imagined differently when race is used as a prism through which to analyze policies, institutions, history and memory, and the everyday experience of diverse populations. This is an interdisciplinary course, which means we will draw upon a range of disciplines, including anthropology, history, urban planning, media studies, and even literary fiction. The class itself is organized by historical periodization. Through readings, lectures, and course work, you will establish a deep understanding of urban racial geography. (Cross-listed with USP 104.)

ETHN 109. Race and Social Movements

Staff

This course explores collective mobilizations for resources, recognition, and power by members of aggrieved racialized groups, past and present. Emphasis will be placed on the conditions that generate collective movements, the strategies and ideologies that these movements have developed, and on the prospect for collective mobilization for change within aggrieved communities in the present and future.

ETHN 116. U.S-Mexico Border in Comparative Perspective

Salvador Zarate

This course critically explores the U.S.-Mexico frontier and the social-cultural issues on both sides of the international demarcation. Social-historical and political-economic patterns illuminate border life, ethnic identity, social diversity and cultural expression. Border Ethnography is complemented by film and music.

ETHN 118. Contemporary Immigration Issues

Kirstie Dorr

This course examines historical and contemporary connections between the political, economic and geographic dimensions of **globalization**, and **migration**: the movement of bodies, culture, and things. Course readings and class discussions will foreground an analysis of how socially constructed categories of difference—particularly **race**, **gender**, and **sexuality**—are mobilized to explain, maintain, and/or contest contemporary globalization and migration processes. Employing a feminist, anti-racist theoretical framework, we will grapple with the following questions: How does US foreign policy—both military and economic—not only contribute to, but in fact shape contemporary (im)migration? How do the social categories of race, gender, and sexuality interact with processes of advanced global capitalism to determine which bodies are deemed ‘undesirable’ migrants and/or expendable subjects? Or, which forms of domestic and foreign interventionism are deemed ‘necessary’ (such as the ‘War on Terror’ and the Wall Street Bailout) or ‘impossible’ (such as protecting public education and other social services)? Though course readings will provide a fundamental historical and theoretical context for our query, we will additionally turn our attention to popular films, news media, and cultural texts to consider how “places” of global mediation—from our homes or our classrooms, to the local supermarket or coffee house—link our everyday lives to the global processes that we will discuss throughout the quarter.

ETHN 121. Contemporary Asian American History

Mark Villegas

The course will study changes in Asian American communities as a result of migratory patterns since 1965. In particular, students will examine the arrival of refugees and their families from Southeast Asia, the “professional”-class of Asian Americans, the role of U.S. militarization in the Asian/Pacific diaspora, interminority and mixed-race communities and relationships, contemporary popular culture among Asian Americans, and other post-1965 history.

ETHN 127. Sexuality and Nation

Kirstie Dorr

This seminar offers an interdisciplinary survey of nation-building and state formation processes in the 19th and 20th century Americas. Course readings and class discussion will be guided by specific attention to how socially constructed categories of difference—particularly gender, race, and sexuality—have shaped/continue to shape material boundaries and ideological claims of national belonging. Employing a feminist, anti-racist theoretical framework, we will grapple with the following questions: How might we theorize the relationship between structures of white supremacy and patriarchy and the (re) production of the imperial and/or postcolonial nation? How are the boundaries of the modern nation-state shaped, transformed, and contested by competing raced and gendered claims of (trans)nationalist belonging? If, as many pundits argue, we are currently experiencing a “decline of nation-state,” then what ghosts of nationalism continue to haunt the raced and gendered structures, states, and citizens of late capitalist globalization? (Cross Listed with CGS 112)

ETHN 129. Asian & Latina Immigration Workers in the Global Economy

Christina Green

This course will explore the social, political, and economic implications of Asian and Latina immigrant women in the U.S. and their increasing role as workers in the global economy. Global economic restructuring, immigration policies and welfare reform have had significant impacts on the everyday lives of immigrants in the United States. We will critically examine these larger social forces from the perspectives of Latina and Asian immigrant women workers, incorporating theories of race, class, and gender to provide a careful reading of the experiences of immigrant women on the global assembly line. (Cross-listed with USP 135.)

ETHN 136. The Science and Critical Analysis of Environmental Justice

Brad Werner

Introduction to the scientific basis and critical analysis of environmental justice, with an emphasis on case studies, activism and community engagement. This course will prepare students to critique and develop scientific models, research designs and measurements consistent with environmental justice. Please visit the class website for more info: <http://complex-systems.ucsd.edu/sio114ethn136/> (Cross-listed with SIO 114.)

ETHN 160. Global Indigenous Studies

Ross Frank

Focusing on trans-regional relationships to land and decolonization in the Pacific, Caribbean, and the Americas, this course is a comparative study of cultural and political phenomena that shape Indigenous communities globally. We will examine enduring legacies of colonialism, nationalism and Western normativities, and explore Indigenous activism within the decolonial movement.

ETHN 163E. Decolonial Theory

Daphne Taylor-Garcia

"Decolonial Theory" will focus on the intellectual work produced by activists from the colonized regions of the world. We will begin with a brief historical overview of influential decolonial texts and then move on to contemporary concerns. The course will have an international scope, but will be attentive to the specificities of local struggles.

ETHN 174. Themes in Afro-American Literature

Dennis Childs

This course focuses on the influence of slavery upon African American writers. Our concern is not upon what slavery was but upon what it is within the works and what these texts reveal about themselves, their authors, and their audiences. (Cross-listed with LTEN 185).

ETHN 179B. Jazz Since 1946: Freedom and Form

David Borgo

This course will examine the evolution of Jazz from 1943 to the present. The course will survey the contrasting and competing styles in Jazz from BEBOP to COOL to the avant garde and fusion. (Cross-listed with MUS 127B).

ETHN 185. Discourse, Power, Inequality

Staff

While discourse analysis has transformed numerous disciplines, a gap separates perspectives that envision discourse as practices that construct inequality from approaches which treat discourse as everyday language. This course engages both perspectives critically in analyzing law, medicine, and popular culture.

For additional information, please email the Ethnic Studies Undergraduate Coordinator,

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You can also visit our website at ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu