



# Course Offerings

## Spring 2015

### **ETHN 3. Introduction to Ethnic Studies: Making Culture**

***Roshanak Kheshti***

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 100C. Social Justice Praxis**

***Jillian Hernandez***

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 102. Science and Technology in Society: Race/Gender/Class**

***Kalindi Vora***

This survey course offers an interdisciplinary and transnational examination of how bodies, knowledge and power are entangled with science and technology. We will examine how scientific discourses and technological practices generate particular and contextual notions of what the body means, how bodily difference is understood, and how this is related to political, cultural and economic power. We examine social difference, including race, class, gender, sex, sexual orientation, and national citizenship as these are constructed and represented through various technologies and scientific ways of knowing. The goals of this course are to understand scientific and technical knowledge and practices as culturally contextualized categories of knowledge that are always situated within the politics of difference. In other words, we think through notions like scientific objectivity and technological neutrality by surveying the way research is planned and conducted, and how different applications of scientific and technical knowledge in fields like medicine, pharmaceuticals, archaeology, reproductive technologies, and public health relate to their access and outcomes in different populations and communities.

## **ETHN 106. Life, Death, and the Human**

***Kalindi Vora***

This course provides a comparative and relational survey of some of the global and historical contexts in which life and death become sites of political significance, ranging from ways they may reveal dehumanizing circumstances to the expression of revolutionary social politics. We examine these contexts, including life under colonization, the commodification of the human body, and the legal and cultural invisibility of some lives, with an interdisciplinary approach which pairs readings in western philosophy, medical anthropology, history, postcolonial theory, and anthropology with film and fiction.

## **ETHN 116. The United States-Mexico Border in Comparative Perspective**

***José Fusté***

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 124. Asian American Literature—Filipino Identities and Communities in Literature**

***John D. Blanco***

This course explores the fashioning of Filipino identities and communities between the end of the nineteenth century and the late 20th. We begin with the anomaly that lies at the foundation of Filipino and Filipino-American cultural institutions and expressions of self and the world: the defeat of the Philippine revolution at the hands of the very nation that in many ways inspired the revolution to begin with--the United States. This course will trace this contradiction in the formation of political institutions, expressions of cultural identity ("Spanish", "Asian", "native", and so forth), and literary reflections as portrayed in the novel and short story. Our exploration culminates in a study of how Filipino intellectuals, politicians, and artists grappled with this colonial legacy after the Philippines became an "independent" national republic (after World War II); setting the stage for Martial Law under President Marcos, on the one hand, and the labor diaspora of Filipinos to the US and (increasingly) other countries, on the other. Course requirements include attendance, participation, one exam, one oral presentation, and three papers of increasing length. (Cross-listed with LTEN 181.)

## **ETHN 128. Hip Hop: The Politics of Culture**

***Gabriel Mendes***

This course is an exploration of the development of hip hop music and culture in the United States as well as the cultural and political debates that surround it. We will consider a wide range of issues and aspects of hip hop, including the music, technology, lyrics, dance as well as hip hop's influences in graffiti, film, music video, fiction, advertising, gender issues, corporate investment, government and censorship debates. Our aims are not only to explore the cultural form itself, but also to learn how to think actively and critically about race, gender, and popular culture and the politics of creative expression in the late twentieth century. (Cross-listed with MUS 152.)

## ETHN 132. Chicano Dramatic Literature

*Robert J. Castro*

Focusing on the contemporary evolution of Chicano dramatic literature, the course will analyze playwrights and theatre groups that express the Chicano experience in the U.S., examining relevant acts, plays, and documentaries for their contributions to the developing Chicano theatre movement. (Cross-listed with TDHT 110.)

## ETHN 142. Medicine, Race, and the Global Politics of Inequality

*Gabriel Mendes*

This course will frame out studies for thinking about human difference at the level of body and health. In so doing, we will explore how modern institutions and discourses have constructed particular populations as victims and/or carriers of disease and others as “sanitary citizens.” And we will examine the material bases for systemic, structural inequalities that shape the production of medical knowledge and the distribution of medical services and public health measures on global, national, and local scales. As we cover how race, as well as the intersecting categories of gender, class, sexuality and nation, affects both the unequal distribution of diseases and unequal access to medical treatment, we will also consider the human rights and social justice consequences of these phenomena.

## ETHN 158. Native American Intellectuals in the 20th Century

*Mattie Harper*

This course examines in three chronological sections how Native American intellectuals in the last century have contributed to political projects that are rooted in resistance to colonialism. Beginning with **Pan-Indian** organizing in the early 1900s, we look at how Indian intellectuals sought to create a political identity defined by their shared colonial experience that conveys their right to U.S. citizenship. Turning to the middle of the twentieth century, we examine the rise of **tribal nationalism** as Indian intellectuals such as Vine Deloria, Jr. articulated the importance of specific national, tribal identities within the political project of asserting tribal sovereignty. Finally, looking at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, this course considers Native intellectuals’ turn to an **Indigenous** framework that emerges in a globalized setting, as a way to highlight Native Americans’ persistence and survival despite colonialism and a shared experience with other colonized peoples’ in the world. By examining these three periods of intellectual work, this course will consider changing Native American intellectual discourse and how it reflects transformations in Native political identity. Readings will include both primary materials written by Indian intellectuals, as well as secondary sources that frame and analyze the intellectuals’ work. The material is interdisciplinary, and includes work from historical, literary and legal studies approaches.

## **ETHN 165. Sex and Gender in African American Communities**

***Dayo F. Gore***

Using films, primary sources, novels, and scholarly essays, this course will explore the ways changing constructions of sex, gender, and sexuality have influenced black life and communities in the U.S. The course will trace how these issues have taken shape both within and outside of black communities in the context of slavery, emancipation and the long black freedom struggle as well as in contemporary discourses about black family life, U.S. popular culture, and sports. This will include conversations about civil rights and black power, Beyonce's black feminist politics, and gender and sexuality in black athletes from Michael Sam to Serena Williams. (Cross-listed with CGS 165.)

## **ETHN 172. Afro-American Prose: Horror and Racial Misogynist Terror**

***Dennis Childs***

Students will analyze and discuss the novel, the personal narrative, and other prose genres, with particular emphasis on the developing characters of Afro-American narrative and the cultural and social circumstances that influence their development. (Cross-listed with LTEN 183).

## **ETHN 174. Themes in Afro-American Literature: Black (Anti) Prison Poetics, Politics & Performance**

***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 177. Listening to the World**

***Roshanak Kheshti***

This course considers the history of listening to the music of the world in Western culture. We will critically examine how the history of perception directs us to listen for familiar and different sounds in music. No musical training required.

## **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 196H. Honors Thesis**

***Thesis Advisor***

Independent study to complete an honors thesis under the supervision of a faculty member who serves as thesis advisor.

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

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