



Course Offerings

WINTER 2016

ETHN 2. Introduction to Ethnic Studies: Circulations of Difference

Kirstie Dorr

Focusing on historical and contemporary migration and the circulation of commodities, knowledge, bodies, and culture, this course looks at how racial formation in the U.S. and transnationally is shaped and contested by such movements.

ETHN 20. Introduction to Asian American Studies

Mark Redondo Villegas

This course will provide an interdisciplinary historical and contemporary survey of Asian American Studies. By examining fictional literature, historical and sociology studies, films, and music, we will introduce both dominant discourses and lesser-known narratives on Asian American lives. The interlinking themes of empire, colonial conquest, militarization, transnational labor, state-sanctioned violence, urbanization, and race and gender relations will emerge from studying the plantations of Hawai`i, the streets of Los Angeles, and much more.

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 musical composition, arrangement, recording, and production direct us to listen for familiar and different sounds in music. No musical training required.

ETHN 100B. Interdisciplinary Methodologies

Kalindi Vora

An introduction to interdisciplinary research methodologies in critical ethnic studies. By developing a critical analysis of the politics of knowledge production, students will learn to identify different methodological approaches in the field and to evaluate their use in practical application.

ETHN 100H. Honors Research Design

Kalindi Vora

This discussion-based course will focus on the application of advanced research methods to the design of extensive, independent research-based 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 113. Decolonizing Education

Malathi Iyengar

This course considers decolonial theories of education in relation to classroom pedagogy, focusing on U.S. urban high schools

ETHN 122. Asian-American Culture and Identity

Lisa Ho

This course examines how Asian/Asian Americans have forged their identities through the site of culture to disrupt hegemonic representations of the Asian/Asian American community. This course will analyze a multitude of cultural texts such as: literature, film, music, performance, and various forms of social media to articulate how Asian/Americans have responded to the ways in which they have been racialized, gendered, sexualized, classed, and deemed as always already “foreign.” The objective of this course is to explore how Asian/Asian Americans have used culture to cultivate an entire landscape that emphasizes the complexities of belonging in the United States.

ETHN 130. Social and Economic History of Southwest

Ross Frank

This course examines the history of the Spanish and Mexican Borderlands (what became the U.S. Southwest) from roughly 1400 to the end of the U.S. - Mexican War in 1846 - 1848, focusing specifically on the area's social, cultural, and political development (Cross-listed with HIUS 158.)

ETHN 134. Immigration and Ethnicity

David Gutiérrez

Comparative study of immigration and ethnic-group formation in the United States from 1880 to the present. Topics include immigrant adaptation, competing theories about the experiences of different ethnic groups, and the persistence of ethnic attachments in modern American society. . (Cross-listed with HIUS 180.)

ETHN 150. Visuality, Sexuality, and Race

Daphne Taylor-García

Visuality is a specific term to refer to the way in which power relations construct our visual field. In other words, how we make sense of what we “see” is mediated by existing power relations. Visuality classifies through the power to name, categorize and define, thus producing what is legible. This system of classification is a means of social organization that began with the casta system and plantation slavery, but is now structural in its reproduction and expansion of colonial effects such as racial profiling and the coloniality of gender. Visuality also speaks to the naturalization of this system of classification that has serious immediate and long-term material consequences: it functions to both renew power relations and preempt colonial subjects from organizing for their collective interests. For this reason presenting a counternarrative to visuality has been central to queer of color critique. (Cross-listed with CGS 150.)

ETHN 152. Law and Civil Rights

Kyung Hee Ha

In this course students explore the relationship between race, class, and law as it applies to civil rights both in an historical and a contemporary context. Presumably universal, impartial and colorblind, the law has organized U.S. society along the lines of race, gender, sexuality, class, ability, citizenship and so on through defining (il)legality, (im)morality and (in)justice. The course will analyze specific legal cases involving issues pertaining to settler colonialism, U.S. imperial expansion, segregation, affirmative action, immigration and post-9/11 racial profiling to discuss the ways in which the law has been applied unevenly and differently to (re)create subjects and subjectivities.

ETHN 153. Citizenship and Civil Rights in the Twentieth Century

David Gutiérrez

This course traces the history of the institution of U.S. citizenship in the last century, tracing changing notions of racial, cultural, and gender differences, the evolution of the civil rights struggle, and changes in laws governing citizenship and access to rights. (Cross-listed with HIUS 136.)

ETHN 155. U.S. Militarism

Kyung Hee Ha

This course considers rationales for and responses to American military expansion as well as its social, environmental, and cultural consequences. We will examine racialized, gendered, and sexualized aspects of militarized institutions and everyday practices in local, national and international communities, including militarized colonialism, tourism, and sex work. The course will focus on the contemporary manifestations of U.S. militarism in relation to immigration, labor, terrorism and humanitarianism through various texts including government records, activists’ accounts and popular cultural texts.

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 articulated the importance of specific national, tribal identities within the political project of asserting tribal sovereignty. Finally, looking at the end of the 20th 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.

ETHN 168. Comparative Ethnic Literature

Lisa Lampert-Weissig

A lecture-discussion course that juxtaposes the experience of two or more U.S. ethnic groups and examines their relationship with the dominant culture. Students will analyze a variety of texts representing the history of ethnicity in this country. Topics will vary. (Cross-listed with LTEN 178).

ETHN 179A. Jazz Roots and Early Development (1900-1943)

Stephanie Richards

This course will trace the early development of Jazz and the diverse traditions which helped create this uniquely American art form. We will witness the emergence of Louis Armstrong in New Orleans and examine the composer's role in Jazz with Jelly Roll Morton and Duke Ellington. (Cross-listed with MUS 127A).

ETHN 183. Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Class

Daphne Taylor-García

Gender is often neglected in studies of ethnic/racial politics. This seminar explores the relationship of race, ethnicity, class, and gender by examining the participation of working class women of color in community politics and how they challenge mainstream political theory. This quarter we will focus on public housing projects. We will examine the politics of gender, race, and class as discussed in a wide variety of materials, including sociological studies, critical geographies, memoirs, and documentaries about the people who live in public housing communities. (Cross-listed with CGS 114.)

ETHN 184. Black Intellectuals in the Twentieth Century

Gabriel Mendes

The aim of this course is to develop a general reading knowledge of the traditions, contexts, and trajectories of Black intellectual discourse during the 20th Century, particularly from the time of the Great Migration of African Americans from the rural South to the urban North. The emphasis will be placed on foundational texts in the field, yet students can expect to engage a wide range of works representing the diversity of Black thought in the 20th Century. The work of contemporary historians and other scholars (secondary sources) will provide background and context to supplement our reading of the foundational texts (primary sources) in the field. In the course we will trace the continuities and disjunctures in the texts produced by Black intellectuals in the so-called American century. Taking our cue from the questions Ralph Ellison posed back in 1944, we will explore how Black writers and political figures have fashioned unique sets of ideas and arguments aimed at addressing the condition of being Black in an anti-Black society—ideas and arguments that often focused on the question of identity and the meaning of freedom.

ETHN 189. Special Topics: California Native History

Ross Frank

A reading and discussion course that explores special topics in ethnic studies. Themes will vary from quarter to quarter; therefore, course may be repeated three times as long as topics vary.

ETHN 198. One Sided: The Westernization of Representation

Daphne Taylor-García

This student facilitated class will be looking at the intersectional effects of (white) western beauty ideals, forms of knowledge production, the construction of academia and history by the West, and the psychological effects of these processes. (Note: Class includes a field trip and snacks!)

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

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