



Course Offerings

SPRING 2013

ETHN 3: Introduction to Ethnic Studies: Making Culture (previously ETHN 1C)

Wayne Yang

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

EHTN 103: Environmental Racism

José Fusté

This course will examine and interrogate the concept of environmental racism, the empirical evidence of its widespread existence, and the efforts by government, residents, workers, and activists to combat it. We will examine those forces that create environmental injustices in order to understand its causes as well as its consequences. Students are expected to learn and apply several concepts and social scientific theories to the course material.

ETHN 106: Life, Death, and the Human—The Rhetoric of State Violence & the Chicana/o Body

Rubén Murillo

19 people have been killed by the Border Patrol in the last two years including one unarmed man who was beaten to death in front of witnesses, as well as several young unarmed people shot by U.S. Border Patrol agents firing into Mexico. While some argue that these are isolated incidents, we will analyze the historical use of state violence (police shootings, wars of imperialism, covert military operations, and vigilantes) as a function of settler colonialism. By looking at several narratives written by Chicanas/os and African-American authors, we will study how they thematize real-life police shootings within larger structures of state violence. Readings include: *Their Dogs Came With Them* by Helena Viramontes, "The Many Deaths of Danny Rosales" by Carlos Morton, "Cariboo Café" by Helena Viramontes, and *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison.

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. 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 129: Asian and Latina Immigrant Workers in the Global Economy

Amanda Solomon

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.)

This class in particular will really engage with the current and local struggles of Filipina and Latina domestic workers. In lieu of a final exam, students will be required to perform an interview with a domestic worker under the supervision of local non-profits and labor organizations, assisting these groups in their attempt to document the working conditions of these women as they fight for the passage of a Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights in California. This course will thus have an important element of community involvement and will appeal to students who want to bridge classroom learning with community engagement.

ETHN 137: Latina Issues and Cultural Production—Representation of Latina Motherhood & Immigrant Detention

Rubén Murillo

We will examine the ideological foundations and the discursive processes that have propelled the largest prison expansion in U.S. history. The newest iteration of this prison expansion has seen a surge in immigration detention facilities. Latinas represent the fastest growing number of detainees in this growing business. How have political, economic, and social exigencies mandated this punitive posture toward Latina immigrants? And what are the myths and contradictions that are evinced by these exigencies?

ETHN 143: Chicana/o Film and Media Studies

Curtis Marez

This course is a historical survey of Chicana and Chicano media from roughly 1950 to the present. The goals of the course include learning about Chicana/o history, politics, and culture through different media and gaining the critical tools to analyze Chicana/o media and media more broadly.

ETHN 151: Ethnic Politics in America

José Fusté

This course will survey the political effects of immigration, ethnic mobilization, and community building in America, and the contemporary role of ethnicity in politics and intergroup relations.

ETHN 165: Sex and Gender in African American Communities

Candice Rice

This course will investigate the changing constructions of sex, gender, and sexuality in African American communities defined by historical period, region, and class. Topics will include the sexual division of labor, myths of black sexuality and black matriarchy, the rise of black feminism, black masculinity, and queer politics. We will engage a variety of scholars such as Patricia Hill Collins, Angela Davis, and Dorothy Roberts, in order to fully explore the intersectionality of social, political, and cultural constructions of race, gender, class and sexuality from within and outside of African American communities. In addition to textual sources, we will draw from multiple media and popular culture examples including sports and hip-hop.

EHTN 172: Afro-American Prose-Racial Gothic Literature

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-African American Prison Narratives

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

TBA

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 180: Mexican American History

David Gutierrez and Luis Alvarez

This colloquium studies the racial representation of Mexican-Americans in the United States from the nineteenth century to the present, examining critically the theories and methods of the humanities and social sciences.

ETHN 183: Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Class

Kirstie Dorr

This course offers a survey of various theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of race, gender, sexuality and class. Moving beyond the notion that these social categories merely represent “layers of oppression,” we will ask: how are race, gender, sexuality and class co-constitutive in the making of social relations and identities in the US and beyond? In other words, how do these social categories depend on each other for their very meaning and coherence, so that it is impossible to neatly separate them? We will examine a set of case studies that will allow us to connect the construction and codification of social difference to the enactment of violent social projects: colonialism and war; nationalism and eugenics campaigns; globalization, immigration and structural adjustment. By the end of this course, it is my hope that we will have collectively honed a critical vocabulary and analytical framework for understanding the interplay of race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, and class in a variety of socio-political contexts.

ETHN 185: Discourse, Power, and Inequality

Kalindi Vora

What is discourse? How does discourse serve to distribute relative privilege, power, advantage and disadvantage in U.S. society and internationally? This course explores the role of institutional discourses (e.g. medical clinics, schools, churches, the state, the family), and other social discourses (of race, gender, nationality, sexuality) in shaping common sense ideas about nations, social movements, social groups, and identities. We will examine discourses through critical analysis of social contexts ranging from global and national media to political rhetoric and everyday language. The goal of this course is for students to develop the analytical skills to critically “read” discourses and analyze how they operate and how they are resisted, applying this knowledge to their own political and intellectual projects. Class projects include a project analyzing how discourse has shaped personal beliefs, attitudes, values of knowledge, and a final project (individual or collaborative) choice of visual media or written project analyzing a dominant discourse and/or production of a counter-narrative to a given discourse.

ETHN 189 A00: 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 on independent campus, community, creative, or research projects.

ETHN 198: SPACES Practicum - Collective Collections and Recollections

Wayne Yang

Collective Collections and Recollections seeks to create a space to build a collection of learned lessons, lived realities, forms of resistance, imaginations, and ways of knowings. Through gathering and collecting mementos, oral traditions, memories, stories, wisdom, scars, and knowledge, we will examine different mediums of storytelling, relearning and find ways of reconnecting and rebuilding our journey from the past to the present and to the future.

For additional information, please email Ethnic Studies Undergraduate Coordinator,

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