



Course Offerings

SUMMER 2014

Summer Session 1 (June 30 - August 2, 2014)

ETHN 101: Ethnic Images in Film

Jade Power

This course looks at the various ways in which race and ethnicity are socially constructed and enacted through filmic performance. The films we watch offer opportunities to understand how these constructs, especially as they intersect with gender, class and sexuality, are both engaged and contested by different marginalized subjects. In doing so, we will discuss how cinema has often used bodies of color as a source of entertainment that produces as well as justifies structural racism. Additionally, we will study films made, by, for, and about people of color that claim the filmic medium as a site for agency and resistance to these racial representations. We will explore film as a social text, something beyond “entertainment,” thus enabling us to ask questions about production and reception, or how film operates for those who make the films as well as for those who watch the films.

ETHN 106: Life, Death and the Human

Rubén Murillo

Over nineteen 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. While some argue that these deaths represent isolated incidents, we will situate our analysis of these deaths within the historical use of state violence (police shootings, lynchings, and vigilantism at home, and wars of imperialism, covert military operations, and political coups abroad) to gain a historical-materialist understanding of state violence. Building on the theories of social death by Orlando Patterson, Necropolitics by Achille Mbembe, we will examine how state violence targeting communities of color has played a critical role as Slotkin argues in regenerating the dominant nation-state. We will read narratives from Chicano playwright Carlos Morton, African-American novelist Toni Morrison, and the powerful film Fruitvale Station to understand how communities of color have created life-affirming discourses and practices in an era imbued with necropolitics and social death.

ETHN 108: Race, Culture, and Social Change

José Fusté

Music is not something that is just there, waiting to be consumed for our listening pleasure. Whether recorded, written, or performed, music is an important cultural register for representing and negotiating social tensions, problems, and systematic forms of oppression and empowerment between human beings, including racism, heteropatriarchy, and class exploitation. Departing from an understanding that music, performance, and culture in general are inherently political in that they are channels for exchanging powerful ideas and sentiments that shape our collective thoughts and behaviors, this course explores the possibilities and limitations for social change *through* music. This requires that we read this form of cultural production not as good or bad, resistive or oppressive, but rather in a way that examines what it does qualitatively within particular political, economic, geographic and historical contexts. Our class discussions will also weigh the many ways music can make our world a more equitable, and sustainable place against the fundamental political and economic obstacles that keep it from fulfilling its radical humanist potential. (Cross-listed with MUS 151.)

ETHN 122: Asian American Culture and Identity

Davorn Sisavath

This course examines Asian American cultural expressions in literature, art, film, the Internet and other popular venues to understand the social experiences that helped forge Asian American culture and identity. Through various means of popular culture, we will investigate the construction and negotiations of three enduring key concepts: Orientalism, the Model Minority, and the Refugee Figure. Our task is to deconstruct the meanings associated with each concept and tell new stories about what it means to be Asian Americans.

ETHN 123: Asian American Politics

Lisa Ho

This course will examine the development of Asian/Asian American politics by studying the historical and contemporary factors, such as political and economic exclusion, that have contributed to the importance and complexity of ethnicity as a mobilizing force in politics. This course will focus on how the concept of "politics" has been molded and transformed in different ways by the Asian/Asian American community to serve the diversity of their needs.

ETHN 127: Sexuality and Nation

Marilisa Navarro

This course explores the nexus of sex, race, ethnicity, gender and nation and considers their influence on identity, sexuality, migration, movement and borders, and other social, cultural, and political issues which these constructs affect. In this course, we will pursue questions such as: How do sexuality and nation mutually constitute each other? In other words, how does sexuality define nation and how does nation define sexuality? How do these concepts change over different historical contexts and political climates? In what ways are understandings of sexuality and nation defined by every day peoples and the state and how do these understanding overlap and/or contradict? We will analyze the ways in which the meanings of sexuality and nation are always fluid, contingent, negotiated, and contested. (Cross-listed with CGS 112.)

ETHN 139: Chicano Literature in English

Jorge Mariscal

Introduction to the literature in English by the Chicano population, the men and women of Mexican descent who live and write in the United States. Primary focus on the contemporary period. (Cross-listed with LTEN 180.)

ETHN 165: Sex and Gender in African American Communities

Dayo 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.

ETHN 185: Discourse, Power, and Inequality

Malathi Iyengar

What do everyday conversations have to do with the social hierarchies of race, class, gender, nation, and empire? How do mundane images reproduce structures of inequality? In this course, we will use theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches from Ethnic Studies and linguistic anthropology to analyze the ways in which discourse – ranging from everyday speech to legal jargon, from the language of children's culture to the language of medical journals – grows out of and (re)produces the ideologies that maintain social stratification. We will explore discourse analysis as a valuable technology for evaluating the operations of power in everyday life, and for building a praxis that allows us to intervene in social power structures and work towards dismantling them.

Summer Session 2 (August 4 - September 6, 2014)

ETHN 101: Ethnic Images in Film

Linh Nguyen

An upper-division lecture course studying representations of ethnicity in the American cinema. Topics include ethnic images as narrative devices, the social implication of ethnic images, and the role of film in shaping and reflecting societal power relations. This course will analyze filmic representations of and by people of color through the lens of race, gender, sexuality and nation. Reading film as cultural text, we will analyze thematic and formal elements to unravel the ways film constructs meaning and the ways it has been used to both assert and challenge structures of power.

ETHN 109: Race and Social Movements

José Fusté

This course will provide you with a historical overview of the various social movements in the United States that have sought justice for those in the receiving end of racial violence, oppression, and marginalization. We will explore how these movements have intersected with other similar movements seeking justice for women, the working class, and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual people. The analytical lens we will use here pays close attention to how these movements have ramifications not just at the level of the nation-state but also on local communities, as well as in connection to other communities and nation-states abroad (i.e., at the transnational and international levels). We will also consider the importance of cultural politics in any social movement. Finally, we will think about what these movements can teach us about how to create new imaginaries, new oppositional identities, and new intersubjectivities among the oppressed people of the world.

ETHN 118: Contemporary Immigration Issues

Kyung Hee Ha

This course will examine diverse issues around (im)migration -the movement and circulation of bodies, cultures, and knowledges –in the era of globalization. By critically engaging with various texts from U.S. foreign policies, immigration laws, state regulations and news reports to literary, visual and audio texts, blog entries, demonstrations and art performances, we will grapple with the following questions: How do state actors control and police (im)migrants on the basis of race, sexuality, gender, religion, dis/ability, age, education and other categories of “difference”? How and why are certain bodies rendered “desirable” (exploitable) and “undesirable” (deportable/detainable)? What are the material, discursive and affective consequences of (im)migration? How is citizenship/statelessness and sense of (not) belonging articulated, represented and contested in the U.S. and beyond?

ETHN 139: Chicano Literature in English

Rubén Murillo

Acclaimed Chicana author Helena Viramontes writes about Chicana story-telling in the following way: “With conviction, they designed escape routes, rehearsed their breakout and hurled their futures over the roadblocks of their marooned existence. Lest they forget that silence is destructive ...” Building on the seminal book on Chicana authors, *Women Singing in the Snow*, this course will focus on Chicana authors, story-tellers, and cultural producers to examine and understand how they draw on their creative forces to produce life-affirming narratives that contest, deconstruct, and problematize the dominant narratives that have distorted and disavowed Chicana/o history. We will examine how Chicana authors and cultural producers offer us a critical understanding of family, sexuality, labor, immigration, state violence, women's health, indigeneity, education, and transnational coalition building. Readings will include Graciela Limón's *Song of the Hummingbird*, Helena Viramontes' *Their Dogs Came with Them*, Gloria Anzaldúa's *Borderlands*, Cherie Moraga's *A Hungry Woman*, Reyna Grande's *The Distance Between Us*. We will also look at the film *Walkout*, and spoken word by the Chicana activist performance group *In Lak Ech* and the *Mujeres de Maíz*. (Cross-listed with LTEN 180.)

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

Daisy Rodríguez at d1rodriguez@ucsd.edu

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