Los Angeles has always had an underbelly that belies this hope of inclusive opportunity and shared prosperity: the chance of reinvention has always been accompanied by sharp residential segregation, significant economic deprivation, and an uneasy relationship with the natural setting that attracted so many in the first place. Contradictions seem to abound: celebrated for its cultural openness and it multiethnic fusion of identities, it is also known as a place that both perfected a modernized form of residential segregation and experienced two major waves of civil unrest (the Watts riots of 1965 and Los Angeles uprising of 1992). Considered the capital of working poverty in the United States, it is also host to a revitalized labor movement. And while L.A. has been the epicenter of immigration to the United States – in the 1980s, it was receiving one quarter of the nation’s immigrants – it has also been a focal point for anti-immigrant sentiment and action.

11 - 11:50 am MWF  
class no. 10310  
4 units  
THH 202  

Taught by  
Professor Juan De Lara  

*Course fulfills GE-C (Social Analysis) & GE-G (Citizenship in a Diverse World) and the university's diversity requirement
AMST 111g: Sex in America

FALL 2017

Class no. 10339

Mondays/ Wednesdays  2pm—3:20pm  THH 301

Professor: Nayan Shah

4 Units

This class will ask you to read histories, fiction, film and social science studies in order to think deeply about the place of sex in American life since the nineteenth century. From slave narratives to interracial marriage, from coming out stories to films where sexuality appears only as a coded set of interactions, and from studies of the history of contraception, films about struggles against AIDS and research about the technologies used to change gender and to enhance erotic response, the course materials will help us explore just how much we talk, think and write about sex – about wanting it, not wanting it, having it, avoiding, punishing those who do have it, pathologizing those who don’t and policing bodies that seem predatory or dangerous. We will think about the history of sex panics, the role of medicine and law in making sexual identity and sexual pathology, and ask about how and why sex, religion and politics have become so intertwined in the US.

*Fulfills GE-C (Social Analysis)
This course offers an introduction to the people and cultures of the Americas; the social, historical, economic, and cultural formations that together make up the Latino/a American imaginary. This course starts with the U.S. Latino experience then works its way back to understand the origins of contemporary Latin America. Recent statistics show Latinos have become the largest minority group in the nation. We take a closer look into the societies of countries in the Americas and how their economic and historical past has shaped the course of the people of the Americas.

*Fulfills GE-C (Social Analysis), diversity requirement, GE-G (Citizenship in a Global Era)
This course offers an interdisciplinary introduction to American and Ethnic Studies. A principal goal is to help students understand how people in the United States live in and think about their country as well as how the world views them. The central themes and topics addressed will include identity formation, immigration, imprisonment, militarism, cultural production, religion, sexuality, and political change. This course will encourage students to formulate connections between these issues by placing them in their broad historical and cultural contexts. We will consider a variety of types of evidence such as novels, photographs, films, the built environment, and material culture to show that we can and need to analyze everything in the world around us.
AMST 274gmw (10390)
Exploring Ethnicity through Film

Taught by Prof. Chris Finley
Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:20 PM MRF 340

Explore the complexities of race and ethnicity in America through film

What is ethnicity? How is ethnicity shaped, or how does one “become” ethnic? What is at stake in claims and visual representations about ethnicity? What politics surround ethnic representations and performances? How is ethnicity actualized and/or performed? Can there be an “authentic” ethnicity? How are such complexities reflected and/or constructed in film? How did the hashtag #OscarsSoWhite and other movements call attention to the lack of diversity and recognition in the film industry?

*Course fulfills these requirements:
- Diversity Requirement
- ASAF Social and Political Issues
- Elective: ASE, ASCL, ASAS Majors
- Elective: ASE Minor
- GE IV (Social Issues)
- GE-C (Social Analysis)
In addition to meeting the University Diversity Requirement, this course meets the requirements for all ASE Majors and Minors!
Legal battles concerning American Indian communities involve complex and interdisciplinary issues of justice, social justice, economics, culture, ethnography, history, geography, governance, policy ... and most importantly – sovereignty.

AMST 345: Law & American Indian Studies is designed to provide students an entrance into the 500-year old conversation about indigenous sovereignties and the legal histories which inform them. Throughout the course, students will examine how and in what ways legal arguments regarding American Indian sovereignties have changed over the centuries. Grouped into five parts, the course content will include the 15th century legal doctrines of Franciscus de Vitoria, some of the most recent Indian law cases before the US Supreme Court, and a contextualized survey of the changes in between.

*This course counts towards the American Studies & Ethnicity major and minor as well as the Native American Studies Minor currently in development. Please contact our academic advisor, Eric Greer, at ericgree@usc.edu, for more information.
AMST 350 will focus on narratives of political organizing, community mobilization, and current issues of social justice, especially around structures of criminalization and incarceration, using a close reading of memoirs and analysis of media sources and new scholarship. In a small seminar setting, we take several off site excursions, both during class and outside of class, including to Los Angeles museums, Homeboy Industries, and theatre performances.

This course is a core requirement for all ASE Majors and Minors
Asian people have been living in what is now called the United States since before the founding of the nation, and have been forming permanent, sizeable communities distinguished by race since the mid-19th century, with the rise of transpacific labor migration on a large scale upon the closing of the transatlantic slave trade. Yet the term “Asian American” is relatively recent, invented by radical students in the late 1960s to name a multiethnic political identification against racism and US imperialism. In little more than a decade, it was transformed into a widely accepted, state-recognized, politically neutral category of racial classification, gathering under its jurisdiction significant and diverse populations of new immigrants who have not always recognized substantive connections to their predecessors. Writers who’d be classified as “Asian American,” under this more neutral definition, have been achieving fleeting or lasting acclaim in US for well over a hundred years. Somewhat separately, the history of something called “Asian American literature” begins with Third Worldist revolutionary movements of the late 1960s, but it has been reimagined in dramatically different ways over the subsequent decades. In this course, we’ll learn about what it means, and has meant, to call something “Asian American literature,” by reading some of the major texts on which various conceptions of that term have been grounded, as well as newer and older texts that complicate it in useful ways.

Fulfills:
* ASE Major/Minor Requirements
* Asian American Studies Major Requirement
* Diversity Requirement
ASE MAJORS:
- American Studies (ASE)
- African American Studies (ASAF)
- Asian American Studies (ASAS)
- Chicana/o and Latina/o American Studies ~CALAS (ASCL)

For more information contact ASE AcademicAdvisor Cynthia Mata-Flores at cmflores@usc.edu or 213.740.2534

2017-18 ASE Senior Honors Thesis Application Deadline:
April 15, 2017

Fall 2017: AMST 492 (10442)
Research Methods in American Studies & Ethnicity, 4 Units
Mondays 2pm-4:50pm KAP 150
Taught by Prof. Juan De Lara

Spring 2018: AMST 493 (10443)
Senior Honors Thesis in American Studies & Ethnicity, 4 Units
Tuesdays 2pm-4:50pm KAP 150
Taught by ASE Faculty

The American Studies and Ethnicity Department at the University of Southern California offers a two-semester honors program for qualified students, first identified in ASE 350 or by the program advisor. Students spend their first semester in the honors program in an honors senior seminar, ASE 492, focused on developing their research and methods for the honors thesis. During the second semester, all honors students are required to take ASE 493, in which each completes a thesis project on a topic of his or her own choosing under faculty direction. Contact the program advisor for further information.
Senior Seminar in American Studies and Ethnicity

Tuesday 2-4:50 pm

Professor David Roman

This course investigates contemporary American culture through the lens of the literary, visual, and performing arts. The course proposes 1) that the arts play a vital role in the shaping American thought and sentiment, 2) that the arts provide means to address national issues and debates, and 3) that the study of the arts enhances our understanding of the contemporary scene.

*Core requirement for all ASE majors and Minors

**Prerequisite: AMST 200 (Introduction to American Studies & Ethnicity)