**Fall 2016 American Studies and Ethnicity Course Offerings**

*Courses with an asterisk require pre-approval to count towards your major requirements. Always refer to the course catalogue to find out how these courses count towards your major. Please see Ms. Cynthia Mata-Flores, your academic advisor, before registering for one of these courses. She can be reached at cmflores@usc.edu, at her office at KAP 458A, or by phone at (213) 740-3198.*

**AMST 101gmw**  Race and Class in Los Angeles
Analysis of race and the economic, political, gender, and social dimensions of contemporary Los Angeles including topics such as residential segregation, economic inequality, and city politics. (MWF 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Prof Juan De Lara)

**AMST 135gmw**  Peoples and Cultures of the Americas
An introduction to cultures and people in the Americas, the social, historical, economic, and cultural formations that together make up the Latino/a American imaginary. (TTh 9:30-10:50 Prof. Macarena Gomez-Barris)

**AMST 200m**  Introduction to American Studies and Ethnicity
Introduction to American studies and ethnic studies. Provides an overview of major theories, concepts, and issues. (TTh 12:30-1:50pm Prof. Jack Halberstam)

**AMST 250gmw**  The African Diaspora
In this course we will look at the history, political economy, and culture of those engaged in what literary critic Brent Edwards calls “the practice of [the African] diaspora” in Europe and the Americas (while actively engaging in a radical decentering—not exclusion—of the U.S. experience). This will entail working along interdisciplinary and comparative lines in the interest of uncovering some truths about the ways in which the slave trade, in its transnational and intra-national manifestations results in an ongoing legacy of fugitive life. (TTh 11-12:20pm Prof. Shana L. Redmond)

**AMST 252gmw**  Black Social Movements in the U.S
This course examines black social movements for freedom, justice, equality, and self-determination. Beginning with Reconstruction, movements include labor, civil rights, radical feminism, socialism, reparations, Black Nationalism, prisoner rights, and Hip Hop (MW 12-1:50pm Prof. Francille Wilson)

**AMST 274gmw**  Exploring Ethnicity Through Film
Examination of the constructions of American ethnicity/race in film. (TTh 3:30-4:50pm)

**AMST 285gm**  African American Popular Culture
Examines history of popular cultural forms such as literature, music, dance, theater, and visual arts produced by and about African Americans. (TTh 12:30-1:50PM)

**AMST 301gp**  America, the Frontier, and the New West
Introduction to an interdisciplinary study of American political, cultural and social life with a particular emphasis on the Western United States as a region. **Recommended preparation:** HIST 200, ENGL 263 (MW 2:00PM-3:20PM; Prof. Alicia Chavez)

**AMST 350**  Junior Seminar in American Studies and Ethnicity: Theories and Methods
This course is designed to introduce students to a diverse range of theories and methodologies relevant to the study of American culture. We will draw from a number of interpretive and analytical models including 3 case studies: the memoirs of women of color, the history of AIDS in the US, and contemporary US politics. While committed to the introduction of critical methods, the course will also be content-driven. We will focus on two immediate case studies: AIDS and the upcoming national elections. These two events will form the content of the class and provide us the occasion to think in interdisciplinary ways. (T 2-4:50PM, Prof. David Roman)

**AMST 392**  Undergraduate Research Methods
Examines processes of scholarly research; quantitative and qualitative research methods; faculty mentorship; experiential learning; research proposal writing; careers in research. Sophomore or junior standing in the major. Departmental approval. Graded CR/NC. (T 4-5:50 P.M Prof. George Sanchez)

**AMST 442**  American Literature, 1920 to the Present
American poetry, fiction, and drama since World War I with special attention to Eliot, Frost, Hemingway, Fitzgerald, O’Neill, Stevens, Faulkner, and Nabokov. (TTh 11:00-12:20PM Prof. David Roman)

**AMST 449m**  Asian American Literature
What is Asian American literature? Who is an Asian American? If white people write about Asian Americans, is that Asian American literature? If Asian Americans write about people who are not
Asians, is that Asian American literature? What happened to turn “Orientals” into Asian Americans? These are some of the questions this course will address by looking at a wide body of literature written by or about Asian Americans from the late 19th century to the present, including poetry, novels, short stories, memoirs, and graphic novels. (TTH 11-12:20pm Prof. Viet Thanh Nguyen)

AMST 490x Directed Research
Individual research and readings. Not available for graduate credit.

AMST 492 Research Methods in American Studies and Ethnicity
Develop the research proposal and methods for completing a senior honors thesis; for students in one of the four ASE honors programs. (Prof. Juan De Lara, T 2-4:50PM)

AMST 498 Senior Seminar in American Studies and Ethnicity
Capstone course for majors, highlighting interdisciplinary study of race and ethnicity in a comparative context. (M 2-4:50PM Prof. Alicia Chavez)

Other Courses of Interest

COMM 384 Interpreting Popular Culture
Popular culture as an indicator of cultural values, a producer and reflection of cultural meaning, and a means of communication; theory and case studies. (MW 9:30AM-10:50AM Prof. Yee Lee)

COMM 458m Race and Ethnicity in Entertainment and the Arts
Examines how race and ethnicity as social categories are shaped by communication media; focuses on how race and ethnicity sustain entertainment and media industries. Prerequisite: COMM 206. (TTh 6:30PM-7:50PM, Prof. Aaron Trammell)

CTCS 393 History of the American Film, 1946–1975
Cinematic and extra-cinematic determinants of Post-Classic and Modernist Hollywood studio and independent genres, styles, and the star-phenomenon and their relationship to American history and culture. (T 6-10p.m Prof Drew Casper)

ENGL 176 LOS ANGELES: THE CITY, THE NOVEL THE MOVIE
Los Angeles has been mocked as a city 500 miles wide and two inches deep. It is famous for its movies and music, but critics claim that it lacks cultural depth. This course seeks to prove otherwise. The region of Southern California has a remarkably rich literary heritage extending deep into its past, and over the past two decades, Los Angeles has become a pre-eminent center of literary creativity in the United States, the home of a new generation of writers whose work address questions and concerns of special significance as we confront the problems of 21st century urban America including environmental crises, social inequality, and problems associated with uprootedness, materialism and racism and ethnic conflict. (Prof. Thomas Gustafson)

ENGL 263 American Literature
Intensive reading of representative writers. (Prof. William Handley, TTh 9:30-10:50am OR Prof. Richard K Berg, MWF 11-11:50am OR Prof. Elda Maria Roman, TTh 12:30-1:50pm)

ENGL 440 American Literature to 1865
This study of American literature from the Colonial era through the Civil War will focus on the interrelationship between politics and literature with a special attention given to issues of freedom, justice and civil rights. After studying the hopes, fears, and ideology of the Puritans and Revolutionaries, the course will consider how novelists and essayists such as Hawthorne, Melville, Emerson, Thoreau, Douglass and Stowe confronted problems arising from the contradictions of American democracy such as the place of slavery in the land of freedom and the betrayal of visions of America as a "model of Christian charity" and "asylum for all mankind". (TTh 12:30-1:50pm, Prof. Thomas Gustafson)

ENGL 442 American Literature, 1920 to Present
American poetry, fiction, and drama since World War I with special attention to Eliot, Frost, Hemingway, Fitzgerald, O'Neill, Stevens, Faulkner, and Nabokov. (TTh 11-12:20pm, Prof. David Roman)

FA 140x Cultural Guide to Los Angeles
An experiential and critical survey of the cultural phenomenon that make up Los Angeles: dance, music, theater, film; emphasis on visual arts. Graded CR/NC. Not available for major credit to finearts majors. (Fri 1-3:50PM)

GESM 110 Performing Race
Performance has become one of the most generative theoretical concepts of the last twenty years, and this course will offer an introduction to a range of its usages in philosophy, anthropology, critical legal studies, cultural studies, and theatre. As a fulfillment of the requirement in the Arts, “Performing Race” offers students the opportunity to explore their own creative potential and to understand the arts and performance within a larger historical, social, cultural context. (TTh 12:30-1:50PM, Prof. Dorinne Kondo)
GESM 111  Asian and Asian American Culture on Stage and Film
The course explores the cultures and characteristics of people of Asian descent both historically and in contemporary times toward a deeper understanding of the diversity within the Asian diaspora. Idiosyncrasies, foods, customs, gender, generation, and acculturation all come under the microscope as students delve into Asian consciousnesses from the Far East to the Middle East to New York City and Durango on stage and in film. OPEN TO FRESHMEN ONLY. (TTh 12:30-1:50PM, Prof. Paula L. Cizmar)

GESM 120  Daughters of Africa: Black Women in U.S. History
Students in this course will closely examine key texts by and about Black American women in the United States from slavery to the present. Black women’s writings, speeches, novels and poems will be examined in the light of contrasting interpretations of their meanings. The principal focus of the readings, discussions, and student assignments will be upon developing analytical skills which will lead to a richer understanding of the life cycles and multiple roles of Black women as mothers, daughters, wives, workers, and social change agents. OPEN TO FRESHMEN ONLY. (MW 3:30-4:50PM, Prof. Francille Wilson)

HIST 265gw  Race, Sex, and the Law
This course analyzes how race and sex--historically constructed categories that have had a powerful impact in shaping the meaning of citizenship--have structured and been structured by laws concerning marriage, inheritance, slavery, immigration, and the allocation of public space. The course fulfills requirements toward USC’s new interdisciplinary major in Law, History, and Culture. (TTH 9:30-10:50 AM Prof. Diana Williams)

JOUR 466  People of Color and the News Media
Learn more about yourself, our society and the media as we explore race and ethnicity in the United States and how the media have reflected, reinforced, and sometimes changed prevailing attitudes and practices affecting women and men of color. (M 3-6:20pm)

MUSC 400  The Broadway Musical: Reflection of American Diversity, Issues and Experiences
Selected Broadway musicals serve as a catalyst for inquiry into human diversity, cross-culturalism, and significant social and political issues. (TTH 4-5:50PM Prof. Parmer Fuller)

MUSC 422  The Beatles: Their Music and Their Times
Music, lyrics, recordings, production techniques, career strategy, social ramifications, and especially the technological impact of the musical group known as The Beatles. (MW 4-5:50PM Prof. Bill Biersach)

MUSC 450  The Music of Black Americans
The musical contribution of Africans and African Americans to American society. Musical genres and the relationship between music and society will be topics for examination. (MW 2-3:50 P.M Prof. Ronald McCurdy)

PSYC 462  Culture and Mental Health
The influence of culture, ethnicity, race and gender on human behavior. Mental health issues relevant to ethnic minorities in the U.S. Recommended preparation: sophomore standing or higher; PSYC 100. (TTH 10-11:50AM Prof. Steven Lopez)

SPAN 413m  Social and Geographic Varieties of Spanish
Historical, social, and cultural elements represented in the dialectal diversity of the Spanish language; fieldwork in bilingual communities in the United States. Majors prepare assignments in Spanish, non-majors in English. Conducted in Spanish and English. (TTH 2-3:20pm Prof. Marianna Chodorowska-Pilch)