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 its 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.

Tues/Thurs
11:00-12:20pm
class no. 10310R
4 units

Taught by
Professor Laura Pulido

Course fulfills these requirements: General education requirement and the university’s diversity requirement.
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.
As laborers, creators, culture bearers, political activists, dreamers, and renegades, African Americans were the fulcrum upon which the country’s material and cultural wealth was built. Throughout the last two centuries, black social movements occasionally pricked America’s moral conscience and compelled the nation to re-think the meaning of democracy. The core of much of “American” culture and politics has been shaped immeasurably by black social movements, which in turn have opened a path for the demands of other aggrieved populations.

In this course, we examine historical and contemporary black movements for freedom, justice, equality, autonomy and self-determination. Beginning with the struggles of Africans to destroy or escape from the system of slavery, we consider a wide range of movements, including labor, civil rights, radical feminism, socialism and communism, reparations, Black Nationalism, and hip hop as a political movement. We will explore, among other things, how movements were formed and sustained; the social and historical contexts for their emergence and demise; the impact they might have had on power, on par-

*Course fulfills these requirements:

- Diversity Requirement
- ASAF Social and Political Issues
- Elective: ASE, ASCL, ASAS Majors
- ASE Minor Elective
This course explores the complexities of race/ethnicity in America through analyses of films. We shall ask such questions as: 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?, and, finally, How are such complexities reflected and/or constructed in film? Towards these ends, the initial weeks of the semester will be devoted to developing a critical vocabulary for speaking about race/ethnicity. We will also (continuously) hone our visual literacy by looking at the ways notions of ethnicity are privileged, constructed, and contested in film via such techniques as editing, sound, lighting, narration, etc. This middle of the course will focus on case studies in film that illuminate the complexities of ethnicity in relation to specific American ethnic groups. The latter weeks of the course will explore broader complexities of ethnicity, such as ethnic hybridity and inter-ethnic relations encompassing political conflict, interracial love and identity, and residential strife.
This course is an introduction to an interdisciplinary study of American political, cultural and social life with a particular emphasis on the Western United States as a region. We will examine the diversity of peoples and experiences in the U.S. West over time, paying particular attention to how the foundational beliefs of American civilization have been played out in historical reality in the past and present. Topics will include the experiences of racial and ethnic conflict and cooperation; economic development of the region; tourism and the representations of “America” in Las Vegas, Hawaii, California, and other Western sites; meanings of frontier societies and their effect on incorporation into the broader United States; the birth of new movements for American civil rights in the region; and contemporary and historical struggles over who is “native” and who is “foreign” in the region that has become known as the “New West.”
Explores the changing political meanings of “Black music” throughout the 20th century, from enslavement to freedom, from racial integration to Black liberation.

*Course fulfills these requirements:
  - Diversity Requirement
  - ASAF Social and Political Issues
  - Elective: ASE, ASCL, ASAS Majors
  - ASE Minor Elective
AMST 332m

Professor: Shana L Redmond

Wednesdays 2-4:50pm
Course No. 10421R ~ 4 Units

Location: TBD

Post-Civil Rights Black America

Analyzes the political, economic, and cultural experiences of the post-1965 period through an interrogation of contemporary conditions, movements, and responses to power in Black America.

*Course fulfills these requirements:
- Diversity Requirement
- ASAF Social and Political Issues
- Elective: ASE, ASCL, ASAS Majors
- Elective: ASE Minor
This course is an advanced study in interdisciplinary theories and methods for analyzing race and ethnicity in the United States, including a comparative study of topics such as inequality, gender, and class.
Community leadership has much in common with other types of leadership, but is also characterized by important differences. For one, community leaders typically work explicitly for social change. In addition, many argue that community leadership is fundamentally about relations of power between those who have power and resources and those who do not. Hence, power is a key ingredient, along with the necessary skills, strategies and confidence to organize toward improving social, economic and political conditions.

- This is a community based learning class, therefore internships are designed to enhance student’s academic learning and work on a project that benefits the internship organization. Students often find that this internship helps them enhance their resume, and in some cases students are offered paid internships at the end of the semester.
- Students will be given a list of community organizations, schools, businesses, and government sites to select from, and the Instructor will provide guidance in contacting internship site supervisors.
- USC Students at all levels (including Freshmen), and from all disciplines, are encouraged to enroll.
- Students who are already doing an internship can approach the Instructor about the possibility of getting course credit.
This course is designed to give the student an opportunity to study the commonalities and differences of the literatures produced by Chicano/a and Latino/a writers in the United States. The term Latino/a has been used inclusively to identify a population that many assume is homogeneous. This is far from true. In fact, this group of people is characterized by a number of profound differences in history, culture and the literature that has been produced by them. This course will examine these differences while at the same time will explore the commonalities between Chicanos, Cuban Americans, Central Americans and other Latino cultural groups. We will pay special attention to issues concerning the construction of race in these communities and in the U.S., as well as the complexity of representations of gender and sexuality. All of these issues will intersect in each of the texts we will read.

*Course fulfills these requirements: Diversity Requirement, ASAF Social and Political Issues, Elective: ASE, ASCL, ASAS Majors, and ASE Minor Elective*
American Studies & Ethnicity
Senior Honors Option 2014-15

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 Program Advisor Cynthia Mata-Flores at cmflores@usc.edu or 213.740.2534

Fall 2014: AMST 492 (10442) Research Methods in American Studies & Ethnicity Tuesdays 2pm-4:50pm KAP 445 Taught by Macarena Gomez-Barris

Spring 2015: AMST 493 (10443) Senior Honors Thesis in American Studies & Ethnicity Tuesdays 2pm-4:50pm KAP 445 Taught by Laura Pulido

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.