Fall 2015 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 450C, 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 1:00-1:50P.M Prof Alicia Chavez)

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. Juan De Lara)

AMST 200m Introduction to American Studies and Ethnicity
Introduction to American studies and ethnic studies. Provides an overview of major theories, concepts, and issues. (MWF 11-11:50am Prof. Alicia Chavez)

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 5-6:20pm Prof. Francille Wilson)

AMST 285gm African American Popular Culture
This course employs a wide variety of different popular culture genres produced by and about African-Americans, including but not limited to theatre, music, sports, film, dance and literature. This course critically examines Black popular culture in the United States and its surrounding politics. Beginning with blackface minstrelsy, the Harlem Renaissance and Swing, and ending with Hip-Hop, Chappelle’s Show and Bossip.com, we will chart chronological and topic driven paths, so as to answer key questions about the genealogies of Black forms and the ways in which they have been and are popularized. Recognizing how gender, sexuality, class, region, and other identity markers inform race, we will challenge assumptions about the parameters of African-American popular culture, as well as its political stakes, aims, and functions. (TTh 12:30-1:50PM Prof. Lanita Jacobs)

AMST 301gp America, the Frontier, and the New West
We will study what historians term “the New West,” by which they mean how the West has been shaped by many different historical forces and peoples. Reading “New West” scholars like Patricia Nelson Limerick, Nayan Shah, Richard Slotkin, Alan Trachtenberg, we will also read and view novels, plays, films, and visual art works that give us a solid understanding of how Native Americans, African Americans, Euroamericans, Asian Americans, Mexican Americans, women, and LBGTs have contributed to our lived realities in the West. Two short papers you will use to write a term paper (10-15 pp.), midterm, and final. Sign up for lecture and discussion section. (MW 3:30-4:50pm; Prof. John Carlos Rowe)

AMST 344m Islamic Law and American Society
Much is made of Sharia in America today. But what is this much-talked about system of law? What are its sources, and who speaks authoritatively on its behalf? Is it amenable to change? Does it promote theocracy? Is it compatible with democracy? Are Sharia and the U.S. Constitution in fundamental conflict, or is it possible to reconcile the two? What of some of the many controversial issues relating to Sharia, e.g., women, jihad, terrorism? And how do Muslim-Americans relate to Sharia? These are some of the many questions we will explore and answer in this course through an in-depth examination of the sources, methodologies, authorities and major issues in Islamic law and how these relate to the major controversies surrounding Sharia in America. (Prof. Sherman Jackson, TTH 9:30-10:50 AM)

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 2:4-5:50PM, Prof. David Roman)
AMST 379  Arabs in America  Arab immigration and acculturation in the U.S. from late 19th century to present; emphasis on community formation, race, religion and gender. (TTh 11-12:20pm Prof. Sarah Gualtieri)

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. (Prof. George Sanchez T 4-5:50 P.M)

AMST 424m  Political Participation and American Diversity  Examines how diverse groups in the U.S. interact with the American political system. (Enroll in POSC 424. TTH 9:30-10:50 A.M. Prof. Morris Levy)

AMST 445/ANTH 445  African American Anthropology  An examination of anthropological research on race and African American culture, from the 18th century to the present. (Enroll in ANTH 445. M 2:00-4:50 P.M Prof Lanita Jacobs)

AMST 448m  Chicano and Latino Literature  What does it mean to be a person of Latin American descent in the U.S.? And what does reading Latina/o literature teach us about race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality? This course is designed to give students an opportunity to study the diverse ways that Latina/os have narrated these intersecting experiences in literature, art, and film. Paying attention to the historical commonalities and differences among Latina/o cultural groups, we will analyze the literary and aesthetic strategies that authors employ in their texts. In focusing on how texts convey meaning, we will explore the ways in which cultural texts have shaped political consciousness through cultural nationalism, contested power dynamics through feminist and queer representations, interpreted the process of racialization, and narrated aspirations and patterns of migration. (TTH 12:30-1:50 Prof. Elda Maria Roman)

AMST 456m: People of Color and the News Media (4.0 units)  Reporting and portrayal of people of color in the United States; impact of racial diversity on media, employment and access, and development of media for individuals and communities of color. Open to non-majors. (Enroll in JOUR 466. M 3:00-6:20 PM Prof. Julio Moran)

AMST 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. (Enroll in COMM 458. TTh 9:30am-10:50am Prof Taj Frazier)

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. Macarena Gómez Barris T 2-4:50PM)

Other Courses of Interest

AHIS 465  Studies in American Art  In-depth exploration of a specified topic in the history of American art. (TTH 2-3:30 PM)

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 10:00am-11:50am Prof Hye 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 9:30am-10:50am Prof Taj Frazier)

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

CTCS 407  African American Cinema  Intensive survey of African American cinema; topics include history, criticism, politics, and cinema’s relationship to other artifacts of African American culture. (M 2:00pm-5:50pm Prof. Kara Keeling)

ENGL 263  American Literature  Intensive reading of representative writers. (David Roman, TTH 11:00am-12:20pm, or Richard Berg, MWF 9am-9:50am)
FA 140x  Cultural Guide to Los Angeles
This class will explore the cultural landscape of Los Angeles. While examining the many forms of cultural production that this city generates, students will learn to navigate the sprawl both physically and intellectually. Through readings, discussions, outings and lectures, a mixture of historical and contemporary examinations of Los Angeles will take place. The vast network of cultural establishments from major institutions to smaller neighborhood arts organizations to individual artistic practices will be explored via the lenses of various political, ethnic and racial histories. (Prof. Alexi Disselkoen, Fri 1-3:50PM)

GESM 110(Freshmen Seminar): Asian & 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. (TTh 12:30-1:50pm; Prof. Velina Houston)

HIST 100gm  The American Experience
Patterns of American development from Colonial times to the present. Duplicates credit in former HIST 200. (TTH 2-3:20pm Prof. Lon Kurashige)

HIST 265g  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,)

HIST 453  The Age of Emancipation: Landmark Lawsuits Seminar
Slavery extended well beyond the geographical borders of the U.S. South, and struggles over emancipation took place well before and after the 1860s. Through a focus on legal texts ranging from the late 18th through the late 19th centuries, we will investigate when the Age of Emancipation was, why it came about, and who it principally affected. We will pay special attention to the different methods by which those defined as “chattel” slaves in the Atlantic World both attained and redefined the meaning of liberty. A central focus of this course will be the relationship between slavery and the evolution of racial status law over the course of the long 19th century. Active participation in weekly discussions and the development of a substantial research paper will constitute the main basis for the grade. Enrollment limited to 15 students. (TH 2:00-4:50 pm Prof. Diana Williams)

HIST 457  The American West
The nation’s westward movement from Colonial times to the present, with emphasis on the frontier’s effect on American life and institutions. (W 2-4:50 pm Prof. Kevin Starr)

HIST 458  History of California
Exploration, colonization, and development of Hispanic California; coming of the Americans; political, economic, and cultural development of California since its acquisition by the United States. (T 2-4:50pm Prof. Kevin Starr)

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 Prof. Julio Moran)

JOUR 484  American Religion, Foreign Policy and the News Media
This course looks at the relationship between American religion, foreign policy and the news media to better understand the development of American opinions about and foreign policy in the Middle East. (W 10am-1:20pm, Prof. Diane Winston)

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 4-5:50 PM 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. (MW2-3:50 P.M Prof. Ronald McCurdy)

POSC 424  Political Participation and American Diversity
Examines how diverse groups in the U.S. interact with the American political system. (T TH 9:30-10:50am Prof. Morris Levy)
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 10-11:50A.M Prof. Steven Lopez)

SPAN 413  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 2-3:50pm Prof. Maria Saltareli)

**Course Suffixes Legend:**
- **G** General Education course
- **M** Course meets Diversity requirement
- **P** Global Perspectives – (GE-G: Traditions and Historical Foundations)
- **W** Global Perspectives – (GE-H: Citizenship in a Global Era)
- **X** Course credit restriction