Fall 2018 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 Eric Greer, your academic advisor, before registering for one of these courses. He can be reached at ericgree@usc.edu, at his office at GFS 315, or by phone at (213)740-2534.

**AMST 101gmw** Race and Class in Los Angeles
The purpose of this course is to examine L.A.’s diverse population, not as isolated, discrete groups but in relation to one another. The city and its environs serves as our laboratory for understanding class, race, gender, political economy, and most importantly, power. We will examine, among other things, how the hierarchies of race and class are produced and reproduced, how gender, ethnicity, nationality, and citizenship shape people’s experience, and how aggrieved communities fight back. (MWF 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Prof. Juan De Lara)

**AMST 135mgw Peoples and Cultures of the Americas**
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. (TTh 9:30-10:50am, Prof. Alicia Chavez)

**AMST 200m** Introduction to American Studies and Ethnicity
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. (TTh 12:30-1:50pm Prof. Alicia Chavez)

**AMST 205** Introduction to American Popular Culture
Popular culture permeates our everyday lives and has an enormous impact on how we view ourselves and the world more broadly. This course engages students in a multidisciplinary examination of the relation between U.S national culture, race, and popular culture. Beginning with an interrogation of the terms “popular” and “culture,” we will develop a theoretical framework and vocabulary for critically analyzing texts across a range of different mediums, including film, television, music, comics, magazines, visual art, Internet communications, among others. This course presses students to attend to how categories of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and class accrue meaning through their representation, reproduction, and circulation in popular culture. Taking seriously questions of power and ideology, we will unpack the underlying ideals, narratives, and assumptions of the popular culture we consume on a daily basis and how they contribute to the exclusion/marginalization of certain perspectives, practices, and embodied experiences. This course critically examines the development and influence of American popular culture as well as the possibilities for dissent through sub- and/or counter-cultures. (MW 12:30-1:50PM Prof. TBD)

**AMST 252** Black Social Movements in the U.S.
This course examines black social movements for freedom, justice, equality, and self-determination. Beginning with the movements to end slavery and bring about full citizenship, we will examine the role of resistance, institution building, social thought, and the expressive arts in the collective action of African Americans and their allies from the 19th through the 21st century. We closely examine the manifestos and agendas of black abolitionists, women’s rights organizations, Black Nationalist, radical, and mainstream civil rights groups ranging from socialists to hip hop adherents, and from presidential campaigns to prisoners’ rights groups. (MW 12:00-1:50PM Prof. Francille Wilson)

**AMST 274gmw** Exploring Ethnicity 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? (TTh 11:00-12:20pm Prof. Chris Finley)
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. Kimberly McNair)

AMST 301  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. Historical accounts of westward expansion and “manifest destiny” prior to the work of “New West” historians emphasized “How the West Was Won” by “pioneers” settling the “open frontier” of the expanding nation. Reading “New West” scholars like Richard Slotkin, Reginald Horsman, and Patricia Nelson Limerick, we will also read novels and view films and visual art works that give us a solid understanding of how Native Americans, African Americans, Euroamericans, Asian Americans, Mexican Americans, women, and LGBTs have contributed to our lived realities in the West. (MW 2:00-3:20 PM Prof. John Carlos Rowe)

AMST 343  Food, Health and Culture in Los Angeles
Examination of Los Angeles diverse food cultures as well as the food justice issues that affect many low-income residents of neighborhoods surrounding USC campus. (W 2:00-4:50PM Prof. Sarah Portnoy)

AMST 345  Law and American Indian Studies
Native Nations across North America hold a unique legal relationship with the United States federal government. This course examines the social, cultural, legal, and historical contexts in which that relationship was created and persists. Students across disciplines are welcome to engage in this 500-year old conversation about Indigenous rights to land, water, and sovereignty. (MWF 10-10:50am, Prof. Deanna Rivera)

AMST 350  Junior Seminar in American Studies and Ethnicity: Theories and Methods
AMST 350 (no prerequisites are required!) will explore narratives of freedom and abolition within the context of settler colonialism, white supremacy, the prison industrial complex, education, and heteropatriarchy. This course uses film, history, immigration law, LA museums, art, music, memoirs, political movements, women of color feminisms, and queer theory to address historical inequalities and how oppressed communities have struggled for freedom, humanity, representation, and justice. We will attempt to answer these questions: How and where can we imagine freedom in this historical moment? What work do we need to do together to make this a reality for all peoples? (T 2-4:50PM, Prof. Chris Finley)

AMST 357  Latino Social Movements
Explore the complexities of Latino social movements in the U.S. Comprehensive introduction to Latino participation in social movements and US politics. Focusing on six Latino groups - Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Dominicans, Salvadoreans, and Guatemalans - this course explores the migration history of each group and shows how that experience has been affected by US foreign policy and economic interests in each country of origin. Civil rights, employment opportunities, and political incorporation, as well as each group’s history of collective mobilization and political activity, highlight the varied ways they have engaged in the US political system. (T 2-4:50PM, Prof. Alicia Chavez)

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. Alisa Sanchez)

AMST 447  Caribbean Literature
An introduction to Caribbean studies, using literature and film, with a focus on specific islands (Cuba, Haiti, and Martinique) examined in their transnational and global contexts. (MW 2:00-3:20PM Prof. Lydie Moudileno)

AMST 449m  Asian American Literature
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. (W 4:30-6:50pm Prof. Viola Lasmane)

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 American Studies and Ethnicity honors programs. (M 2-4:50pm, Prof. Juan De Lara)

**Other Courses of Interest**

ANTH 263g  Exploring Culture through Film
Concepts of social anthropology using filmic representations of societies throughout the world in contrast to written ethnography. (MW 8-9:50 AM Prof. Gray Seaman or TTh 11-12:20 Prof. Jennifer Cool)

COLT 365  Literature and Popular Culture
Study of mass-reproduced verbal and visual art forms, such as graphic novels, comics, animation, popular music, video, graffiti, advertising. (MWF 11:00-11:50AM Prof Michael Du Plessis)

COMM 206  Communication and Culture
Examines cultural institutions, ideologies, artifacts, and productions; role of culture in everyday life; cultural studies as methodology; culture and power. (MW 2:00-3:20PM Prof. Cristina Visperas)

COMM 310  Media and Society
Interplay between media and society, including family and children’s socialization, inter-group relations and community, pornography and violence, gender and race, media ethics, conduct of politics. (T 6:30-9:20PM Prof. Robert Scherer)

COMM 371  Censorship and the Law: From the Press to Cyberspace
The study of current and historical battles over the limits of free expression from press and public parks to television, movies, music and cyberspace. (W 3:30-6:20PM Prof Michael Overing)

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. (TTh 11:00AM-12:20PM Prof. Safiya Noble)

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. (M 2:00-4:50AM, Prof. Taj Frazier)

COMM 465  Gender in Media Industries and Products
Examination of the effect of gender stratification in media industries upon the cultural products they create, especially gender and gender/race role portrayals. (TTh 2:00-3:20PM Prof Alison Trope)

*CRIT 371  BRE
Introduction to the history of Los Angeles performance undergrounds from the 1980s to the present. (W 11-1:50PM, Prof. Ron Athey)

*CTCS 393  Postwar Hollywood, 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. (T 6-10p.m Prof Drew Casper) *FOR APC MINOR.

CTCS 411  Film, Television and Cultural Studies
Detailed examination of film/television from the perspectives and insights of Cultural Studies; focus on the production and reception of cultural texts, practices, and communities. (TTh 9-12:50pm, Prof. William Whittington)
CTCS 412 Gender, Sexuality and Media
Examines how gender and sexuality are figured in cinema and television with an emphasis on the development of feminist media theory. (T 2-5:50PM Prof. Aniko Imre)

DANC 212g Dance in Popular Culture
Examination of the role of dance in popular culture in a studio setting. Practical studies in styles and their evolution in recreational and professional settings. (TTh 3:30-5:10 Prof. Achinta McDaniel)

DANC 302g Hip Hop Don't Stop: Exploring Black Vernacular Dance
Introduction to the history and practice of Urban Folk Dance including hip hop, freestyle, street dance and the relevant social dances of the 20th century. (MW 12-1:40 PM Prof. D Sabela Grimes)

ENGL 263 American Literature
Intensive reading of representative writers. (Prof. Kerry Ingram, MWF 11-11:50AM OR Prof. William Handley, TTh 9:30-10:50AM OR Prof. Christopher Findeisen, TTh 10:30-1:50PM, OR Prof. Rick Berg, MWF 10-10:50AM)

ENGL 341 Women in English Literature Before 1800
English poetry, plays, novels, and discursive prose by and about women from 1375 to 1800. (TTh 12:30-1:50 Prof. David Rollo)

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 9:30-10:50am, Prof. Alice Gambrell)

*GESM 130g Seminar in Social Analysis: Interrogating Authenticity
Individual and collective human action as it shapes and is shaped by economic organizations, political institutions, and broad social and cultural settings. (TTh 12:30-1:50pm, Prof Lanita Jacobs)

HIST 100 The American Experience
Patterns of American development from Colonial times to the present. Duplicates credit in former HIST-200. (TTh 12:30-1:50pm Prof. Nathan Perl-Rosenthal)

HIST 455 Advanced Topics in African-American History
Exploration of African-American history through primary and secondary sources employing a colloquium format with an emphasis on shared responsibility for comprehensive discussion and analysis. (W 3:00-5:50pm Prof. Kimberly McNair)

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) COUNTS TOWARDS THE APC MINOR.

PSYC 462m 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)

REL 336 Re-Viewing Religion in Asian America
Interdisciplinary analysis of the religions traditions, institutions, and experiences of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. (TTh 11:00-12:20PM Prof. Duncan Williams)

SOIC 342m Race Relations
Past and present relations between the White majority and the "conquered minorities" (Blacks, Chicanos, American Indians), as well as Asian immigrants; conflict vs. assimilation perspectives. (MW 5:00-6:20PM Prof. TBD)

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)

THTR 295 Theater in Los Angeles
Current state of American theatre, through a study of acting, playwriting, criticism, stage design, lighting, and dramatic styles.
(M 2-3:50PM, Prof. Frank Catalano)

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