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.
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.”
Is there such a thing as “Black American Islam?” Can there be? Should there be? What would distinguish it from historical Islam, and how will/should it relate to the global Muslim community? How do Black American Muslims relate to those Muslims who came to America from the Muslim world? What about Black American Muslim women? And how has 9-11 affected all of these relationships? As for Hip Hop, what role have/do Muslims play[ed] in its development and substance, and what challenges or opportunities does Hip Hop pose for Black American and other Muslims? Finally, what does all of this tell us about the future of Islam in Black America?
This seminar is designed to allow students to explore the complex and contested interactions between the law and the construction of group and individual identities. Students will study theories of identity and community including racial, gender, religious, national, and sexual and will focus upon how the law has been central in defining, rewarding, and punishing difference. After a general examination of how diverse communities define themselves and their legal and contemporary problems, the class will examine cases studies.
AMST 348m: Race and the Environment

Description: In this course we will examine the nature of environmental problems and the environmental movement from a racial and social justice perspective. We will explore how environmental hazards often disproportionately impact vulnerable communities and how they have mobilized to resist such problems. Topics to be covered include: the origins of the environmental movement, the environmental justice movement, air toxins, pesticides, and climate justice. Course will involve a hands-on research project.

*This course satisfies the university's diversity requirement.
This seminar will provide a broad overview of social research methods pertinent to the study of race, ethnicity, gender, and culture. In the first half of the course, attention will be devoted to qualitative and quantitative methods, including oral history interviews, ethnographic observation/field research, and surveys. We will also explore theories concerning “ethnicity” as both a social construct and constituent feature of peoples’ identities and lived experiences. In the second half of the course, we will examine the application of social research methods and theories in scholarship pertinent to American Studies.
AMST 357m
Latino Social Movements

SPRING 2015
Day: Tuesday
Time: 2—4:50 PM
Class no. 10427
4 units
Location: THH 108

Prof. Juan De Lara

For more information, please contact the Dept. of American Studies and Ethnicity at (213)740-2426.

This course fulfills the diversity requirement. It also fulfills the requirements for the majors in American Studies and Ethnicity and the Chicano/Latino Studies as well as the minors in American Studies and Ethnicity and the American Popular Culture.
Community leadership is fundamentally about empowerment, that is, empowering others to develop the skills, strategies and the confidence to solve their own problems. Study leadership within the context of a community-based organization through a hands-on internship experience. Explore theory and research on leadership, as well as principles of behavioral and social change, using specific examples from your own community leadership efforts.

- In the past, students have been placed with organizations such as ACORN, A Place Called Home, the Boys & Girls Club, the Korean Immigrant Workers Association (KIWA), Planned Parenthood, and the Salvation Army.” Then follow that with “Students are encouraged to choose their own internship with instructor approval. Those who are already doing an internship should approach the instructor to find out if it qualifies.
- 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.
Spring 2015
AMST 373 History of the Mexican American

Mondays/Wednesdays 2-3:20pm
Class # 10428R 4 Units
Professor Alicia Chavez Location THH 213

This course is an exploration of the history and culture of Mexican Americans and other Latinos in the United States from the colonial era to the present. We will examine the diversity of experiences among this group across the United States, paying particular attention to issues of race, region, gender, class, and immigrant status. Topics will include the varied experiences of colonialism and immigration; the role of race prejudice and discrimination in shaping social mobility; cultural transformation and regional variations in language, religion and music; gender as a central variable in defining issues of identity and opportunity; and the birth of a Chicano/ Latino civil rights movement.

AMST/HIST 373 fulfills the history requirement in both Chicano/Latino Studies & American Studies majors. It also fulfills requirements in the History major. It also fulfills elective requirements in African American Studies and Asian American Studies. This course is open to all students with an interest in the topic.
This class is designed to be an exciting and challenging introduction to the field of Asian American Studies. Asian American Studies was born out of the 1960s movements for social justice and equality. Thus, fundamental to this class is the concept of race and racial dynamics in the United States. Regardless of their racial identity, students will be challenged to examine how social identities have influenced their life and society overall. The main objectives of this course are 1) to gain an overview, from a range of perspectives, of Asian American history, community, and contemporary issues; and 2) to analyze critically important social structures in the U.S. and elsewhere.

This class meets USC’s diversity requirement by addressing the formation of race relations in relationship to social class and gender distinctions within American society and Asian immigrant communities. Issues of diversity and nation are addressed in substantial discussion of US imperialism and through foreign relations and wars.
This course is a selective examination of the major works, authors, and themes of Asian American literature, from the mid-20\textsuperscript{th} century until the contemporary moment. The primary concern of the course is to demonstrate the dynamic relationship between Asian American literature and the histories of Asians in the United States, and the United States in Asia. In particular, the shifting function of Asian immigrants and Asian Americans in U.S. culture and economy will be a focus for the course as we examine how Asian American literary concerns and styles have evolved with that shifting function. Ultimately, the proposition this course puts forth is that the aesthetics of Asian American literature is inseparable from the politics of Asian American experiences; this intersection between aesthetics and politics is one important site where Asian American culture and identity are formed.
Senior Seminar in American Studies and Ethnicity

Mondays 2-4:50 pm
Taught by: Laura Pulido
Course no. 10444R
4 units
Location VKC 105

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 shaping American thought and sentiment, 2) that the arts provide a means to address national issues and debates, and 3) that the study of the arts enhances our understanding of the contemporary scene. The course is organized around three clusters—“Now,” “Peace,” “AIDS,”—each with its own set of readings.
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, 4 Units
Tuesdays 2pm-4:50pm GFS 220
Taught by Nayan Shah

Spring 2015: AMST 493 (10443)
Senior Honors Thesis in American Studies & Ethnicity, 4 Units
Tuesdays 2pm-4:50pm KAP 150
Taught by Sarah Gualtieri

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.