

Spring 2023
DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN STUDIES & ETHNICITY
GRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

Disclaimer: The following list of courses is based on our best available information. We do not guarantee instructor, courses, location and time are accurate.

CORE COURSES

AMST 567: Body, Power and Politics (4)

Surveys interdisciplinary research and theory on the human body, state power, scientific knowledge, professions and representation.

Professor Jackie Wang, Tuesday 2-4:50pm

AMST 570: Readings on Los Angeles and Urban Culture (4)

In our examination of race in the Los Angeles region, one area of focus is the role of government policies and practices in racial formation and the racialization of place. Since these policies and practices often create and support racial hierarchy and privilege in society, we examine the efforts of groups to contest inequality. Understanding how the history of racial segregation has created multiracial communities of color, we also examine interracial relations among people of color. We primarily read works from history and the social sciences. Some of the issues and communities studied include: incarceration, urban development, gentrification, organized labor, interracial relations, Boyle Heights, South L.A., and the University of Southern California. We emphasize racial formation in terms of how groups are racialized in relation to one another in society, and when they occupy the same residential and political spaces.

Professor Leland Saito, Thursday 5-7:50pm

AMST 645: The Middle East in American Studies (4)

Since September 11, 2001, Arab American Studies and US Muslim Studies have become part of Ethnic Studies. This course traces the development of scholarship about Arab, Muslim, and Southwest Asian/North African (SWANA) racialization in the context of American Studies and Ethnic Studies. It surveys evolving scholarship on racialization in the war on terror, attending to scholarly turns towards feminist and queer analysis, towards including Latin America and Palestine within its frame, and towards a focus on the racialization of Muslims and Islamophobia. Given that Arab American Studies, Critical SWANA Studies, and US Muslim Studies are relatively new to Ethnic Studies, this course aims to provide students in this research area with solid grounding in the development of the field. For these students and for those in other ethnic studies areas, it offers the opportunity to think about questions of racialization, racial profiling, surveillance, the War on Terror, the national security state, US empire, resistance, and solidarities. *Professor Evelyn Alsultany, Tuesday 2-4:50 pm*

AMST 680: Interdisciplinary Research Seminar in Cultural Studies (4)

Explores theoretical approaches to cultural studies as an interdisciplinary field and guides students through the design and completion of a journal-quality research paper.

Professor Adrian De Leon, Wednesday 2-4:50pm

AMST 701: Contemporary Theories of American Studies and Ethnicity

Seminar in representative theoretical works in the fields of American Studies and Ethnic Studies published in the past fifteen years. *Tuesday 2-4:50 pm*

OTHER COURSES OF INTEREST

AHIS 515: Seminar in Contemporary Art (4)

Professor Suzanne Hudson, Tuesday 2-4:50 pm

AHIS 530: The Philosophy of Art (4)

What makes a work of art good? Will address question with a focus on Western art from antiquity to the present.

Professor Susanna Berger, Monday 2-4:50pm

ANTH 562: The Practice of Ethnography (4)

Major approaches to ethnographic fieldwork are explored in classic cases.

Professor Emily Zeamer, Thursday 2-4:50 pm

ANTH 605: Race, Performance, Politics, Cultural Production (4)

Focuses on the performance and social construction of race and its intersection with gender, sexuality, class, place, nation and empire. We will encounter works about performance in everyday life, aesthetic performance, and performative writing that engages multiple genres. We will explore the intersections of embodiment and performance, including disability. When possible, we will invite guest speakers to class. This year promises to be especially exciting, as I will be working with the Mark Taper Forum in LA on their revival/ new production of TWILIGHT: LOS ANGELES 1992. We will attend as a class. Readings will spotlight genealogies of performance, ethnographies of performance including new work such as Jafari Allen's THERE'S A DISCO BALL BETWEEN US: A THEORY OF BLACK GAY LIFE, and works from the arts/ performance studies including Madison Moore, FABULOUS; THE RISE OF THE BEAUTIFUL ECCENTRIC. Looking forward to an exciting and generative semester!

Professor Dorinne Kondo, Monday 4-6:50 pm

COLT 602: Seminar in Literary Theory (4)

Intensive study of a theoretical tradition or critical movement, or of an individual topic or thinker, in literary criticism or theory. *Professor Neetu Khanna, Thursday 2-4:50 pm*

COMM 526: Humanistic and Social Scientific Approaches to Human Communication II (4)

Overview of the humanistic and social scientific approaches to the study of communication; emphasis on macro and micro social scientific, symbolic and structural perspectives. *Professor Hector Amaya, Tuesday 9:30-12:20 pm*

COMM 550: Quantitative Research Methods in Communication (4)

Epistemological assumptions, design, and beginning methods of quantitative analysis in communication research. *Professor Lindsay Young, Thursday 9:30-12:20 pm*

CSLC 575: Introduction to Sound Studies

In the past few decades, the field of sound studies has emerged as a vibrant interdisciplinary field of research, excavating in many senses its own intellectual genealogies, and productive of some of the most innovative methods in media studies today. In this course, we survey some of the touchstone texts of the field, paying special attention to a set of key concepts: noise, listening / hearing, voice, acoustics, formats, vibration, rhythm, and silence. Through our primary readings and discussions, we will explore these concepts as empirical, social/psychological, political, philosophical, and aesthetic phenomena that manifest ways of sensing and knowing oneself, the world, and the beyond. As a survey of the field, this course will ask questions such as: What (sorts of) thing(s) is sound studies? How might we begin to understand its contours? What sorts of questions does it ask and how does it go about answering them? What important tools and critical vantage points do studies in sound offer for thinking about comparative studies in literature, media, and culture? In this course, we will gain strong familiarity with a corpus of texts central to the still-emergent and ever-evolving field of sound studies, and examine a range of methodological approaches, research questions, lines of interrogation, and key terms developed in sound studies scholarship. Readings include works by Jonathan Sterne, Peter Szendy, Eric Schmidt, Emily Thompson, Nina Sun Eidsheim, David Novak, and many others.

Professor Edwin Hill, Tuesday, 2-4:50pm

CTCS 503: Survey History of the United States Sound Film (2)

Survey history of the United States film from 1927 to the present, with emphasis upon film as art form, economic institution, technology, and cultural product. (Cinema Lab \$75) *Professor Thomas Pringle, Tuesday 10-1:50 pm*

CTCS 517: Topics in Cultural Studies (4)

Introduction to central concepts, key theories and leading figures in cultural studies, particularly as they relate to issues of popular culture and visual media. (Cinema Lab \$75) *Professor Nitin P. Govil, Thursday 2-5:50 pm*

CTCS 518: Seminar: Avant-garde film/video (4)

Aesthetic, historical and ideological issues in avant-garde film and video. *Professor Jennifer Wild, Wednesday 10-1:50 pm, SCA 110*

CTCS 564: Seminar in Film and Television Genres (4)

Advanced study of a selected genre of film and/or television — its relationship to history, society, and culture, as well as to genre theory. *Professor Giancar Cornejo, Monday 2-5:50 pm*

CTCS 587: Graduate Television Seminar (4)

Detailed investigation and discussion of various aspects of television. (Cinema Lab \$75) *Professor Tara Mcpherson, Friday 10-1:50 pm*

CTCS 677: Cultural Theory (4)

Seminar in theoretical approaches to cultural studies; focus on interdisciplinary research of media and audiences, covering a range of methods and theoretical frameworks; concentration varies. *Professor Aniko Imre, Monday 2-5:50 pm*

ENGL 508: History, Theories and Practice of Cultural Studies (4)

Looking at specific case histories, this course introduces students to the basic methods, theories and activities in cultural studies. *Professor Sarah Kessler, Monday 4:30-6:50 pm*

ENGL 591: 20th Century American Literatures and Cultures (4)

Studies in rural and urban fictions, modernism, the shift from imagism and symbolism to confessional poetry, recovered writers, hemispheric traditions, literature and kindred arts, and other topics. *Professor William Handley, Friday 2-4:20 pm*

ENGL 595: Literary Studies Across Cultures (4)

“Writing as an Other”

What does it mean to be an other? How does the other experience their own self and subjectivity? What does it mean to write as an other? These are the core questions for this course, which foregrounds in particular the way that writers who are marked as other or who imagine themselves as other have dealt with issues of aesthetics, politics, economics, history, representation, publishing, and criticism. The writers who interest me are the ones who resist boundaries of all kinds—national, racial, gendered, generic, sexual, and disciplinary. Boundaries are a way of creating others and managing otherness by restricting creative, critical, and political inquiry. The writers we will read—novelists, poets, essayists, memoirists, critics, theorists—challenge multiple boundaries.

Most of the writers for the course express a desire to write creative criticism, whether they happen to foreground the critical and scholarly act or the creative act of writing fiction, nonfiction, poetry, or some hybrid. Likewise, this course emphasizes the writing of creative criticism. We will foreground the act of writing itself on the part of students, and I encourage students to think about their own styles, visions, and voices as they write their seminar projects. I hope to cultivate the practice of writing criticism as a creative and idiosyncratic endeavor that should not be restricted by traditional academic conventions.

Some of the writers we will read include Toni Morrison, Ha Jin, Edwidge Danticat, Claudia Rankine, W.G. Sebald, Gloria Anzladúa, Roland Barthes, Frantz Fanon, Trinh T. Minh-ha, James Baldwin, Richard Wright, and more. *Professor Viet Thanh Nguyen, Monday 2-4:20 pm*

ENGL 620: Literature and Interdisciplinary Studies (4)

Issues and theory of studying literature in relation to history, science, politics, psychology, religion, sociology, media, the visual arts, and other disciplines. *Professor Mark Irwin, Wednesday 2-4:20pm*

ENGL 630: Studies in Gender

History and ideology of gender studies, feminist theory, gay and lesbian discourse, and other studies in feminism and masculinities in relation to literature. *Wednesday 4:30-6:50 pm*

HIST 566: Historical Scholarship on North America to 1800 (4)

Introduction to research in the fields of American Indian, colonial America, Atlantic world, and the early United States. Open only to graduate students. *Professor Nathan Perl-Rosenthal, Mondays 2-4:50 pm*

HIST 645: Research Seminar in Latin American/Borderlands History (4)

This is a research seminar in Latin American/Borderlands history, across time periods and geography. The goal of the seminar is to produce a draft of a publishable article based on original research in primary sources. Such drafts are typically 20-25 pages long, double spaced, including notes (ca. 8-10,000 words total). *Professor Laura Isa Serna, Tuesday 2-4:50 pm*

PYSC 660: Seminar in Clinical Psychology (4)

Selected topics in clinical psychology. *Professor Bridgid Conn, Wednesday 2-5:50pm*

SOCI 520: Qualitative Research Methods (4)

Seminar in epistemologies, ethics, and techniques of qualitative research. Critical reading and practice in social observation, interviewing, fieldwork, and research design. Preparation of IRB proposal. *Professor Paul Lichterman, Thursday 9:30-12:20 pm*

SOCI 642: Sex and Gender in Society (4)

The social organization of gender in the contexts of work, families, intimacy, sexuality, reproduction, violence. Variations by race, ethnicity, social class. Processes of social change. Duplicates Credit in former SOCI 552. *Professor Michael Messner, Mondays 9-11:50 am*

SOCI 675: Seminar in Immigration (4)

Survey of key theoretical approaches and relevant issues in immigration studies. Themes include: transnationalism, globalization, gendered migration, segmented assimilation, immigrant labor markets, social incorporation and citizenship. *Professor Jody Agius Vallejo, Tuesdays 9:30-12:20 pm*

THTR 501 Poetry and Prose into Drama (4)

Plays for the stage shall be written using public-domain poetry and prose as inspiration and source material, complemented with exploring poetry, prose, and varied dramas as context for the student writer. Students should be well-versed in literature, and have written in one or more genres. *Wednesday, 5-7:50pm*