ONLINE SUMMER 2020 COURSE!
All Majors are Welcome—No Prerequisites

“Modern Race and Racial Politics”
(AMER 180)
Summer Session II (June 30-August 7) 2020
Professor Thomas Abowd, Tufts University

Course Overview:
This online course is an interdisciplinary exploration into the fascinating worlds of race, racial formation, and racial politics in the United States. We will not simply examine how race is socially constructed, but just as importantly how it is politically contested and shaped by social actors and social movements. Participants will begin by examining the historical development of the modern concept of race and the experiences of different ethnic and racial communities in the United States. We will look at a range of racial histories and a host of theories and debates surrounding such concerns. Pursuing an “intersectional” approach, students will also examine racial identity as it is influenced and molded by gender, religion, class, sexuality, and nationalism. This course will challenge us to explore how different communities of color live in relation to one another and in relation to “Whiteness.” Central themes also include the portrayals of Chicanos, Arabs, and Muslims by Hollywood, the impact of social movements and anti-racist activist struggles in the US, race and popular culture in the Americas, and questions of the border and the politics of immigration. Visual culture, films, and documentaries will be integral to the course.

Readings: There are no book costs for this course
The reading load for this class is moderate. We will be reading selections from a variety of texts as well as a few articles—all made available on CANVAS. You are not required to buy any books.

Films and Documentaries Include:
1) “In Whose Honor: Native American Stereotypes in Sports”
2) “Grace Lee Boggs: American Revolutionary”
3) “Who Killed Vincent Chin?”
4) “I am Not Your Negro: James Baldwin”
5) “Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People”
6) “Chicano!”
7) “Eyes on the Prize: The US Civil Rights Movement”
8) “Paris is Burning”

• Course fulfills following the reqs: LA-Distribution-Social Sciences, SoE-HASS-Social Sciences
• Students who have questions about the course are invited to email Professor Thomas Abowd at Thomas.abowd@tufts.edu
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