Native American and Indigenous Studies
Fall 2019 Courses

MID-LEVEL SPECIAL TOPICS:
- AMER 0010-01 Racial Politics & Urban Space ~ Tom Abowd
- AMER 0094-02 Indigenous Urban America ~ Darren Lone Fight
- DR 0093-63 In the Flesh: Race, Performance, Sex and Skin ~ Lilian Mengesha
- ENG 0023-01 Dissent and Democracy: American Literature To 1900 ~ Elizabeth Ammons
- SOC 0011-01 Sociology of Racial and Ethnicity ~ Daanika Gordon

SEMINARS:
- AMER 0180-01 Seminar: American Civil Rights ~ Kerri Greenidge
- AMER 0180-02 Seminar: Alter-Natives: Indigenous Speculative Narratives ~ Darren Lone Fight
- FAH 0280-01/0198-05 Seminar: Decolonial Aesthetics ~ Adriana Zavala
- HIST 0173 Advanced Special Topics, North America: Our Road to DACA and The Wall ~ Reed Ueda
- HIST 0193 Research Seminar, North America: Family Histories and American Culture ~ Kendra Field

UPPER LEVEL SPECIAL TOPICS:
- DR 0293-01 Colonial Unknowing ~ Lilian Mengesha
- ENG 0176-01 Earth Matters ~ Elizabeth Ammons
AMER 0010-01 Racial Politics and Urban Space in the United States ~ Thomas Abowd
MW | 6:00-8:30PM
How can the history of racism in the United States be understood through the activism and struggles of urban-based social movements? How have policing technologies, forms of violence, and governing assumptions made racial segregation an enduring reality in America? As capitalist modernity began to make city life the majority experience in the US in the early 20th Century, a range of formidable forces intersected in the creation of these expanding metropolitan areas. This course will highlight the radical changes that US urban centers have undergone historically and the role that race, racism, and racial politics have played in these transformations. Participants will examine these shifting and fluid realms not simply as cartographic places frozen on maps but also as ideas and myths that have helped construct US nationalism, settler-colonialism, and helped bolster anti-racist visions. This course will feature examinations of Boston, Seattle, New York, Detroit, Chicago, and Los Angeles, and other cities.

AMER 0094-02 Indigenous Urban America ~ Darren Lone Fight
TR | 12:00-1:15
This course situates urban Indigenous experience within broader conversations about settler-colonialism and the project of modernity, exploring the complex encounter between rhetorics of Indigenous urban erasure and the powerful counternarratives that resist them. There is a contradiction when one thinks of Native people in relation to cities: while the urban is often coded as a space of absence or death for Indigenous people, over 70% of Native American people live in urban or suburban locales in the United States. To unpack that contradiction, we will pursue an analysis of Indigenous history and contemporary experience within urban cultural production centers the past and ongoing influence of the urban Indigene and her people within, across, and beyond the city limits.

In addition, the material and symbolic organization of urban space and place itself operates as a critical vector of analysis for the course. All cities in the United States are on Indigenous land, and most are located in places where prior and ongoing Indigenous communities continue to make their home. In fact, many major cities also contain some of the largest Indigenous communities in the US. Nevertheless, the spatial character of urban space continues to be decidedly non-Indigenous. Through critical engagement with Indigenous historical and cultural analyses, novels, film, music, and other materials, this course tracks the ways the text of urban space/place constitutes and is constituted by cultural production, thereby opening a space for critical inquiry into the relationship between structures of oppression, urban Indigenous communities, and the spatial production of the city as such.

AMER 0180-01 Seminar: American Civil Rights ~ Kerri Greenidge
M | 1:30-4:00PM
Examines the modern Civil Rights Movement in the United States and its impact on race relations, politics, society, and culture. Topics discussed during the semester include debates over non-violence vs. self-defense; integration vs. separatism; protest vs. politics; Martin Luther King vs. Malcolm X. The movement's geographic, racial, and ideological diversity will also be explored, as will the evolution from civil rights to Black Power.
Speculative narratives encompass a wide variety of forms, styles, and genres and often push into the threshold between fiction and non-fiction. However, in its most typical expression, these narratives take the shape of familiar genre fiction: superhero, supernatural, science fiction, and fantasy narratives. But the speculative is fundamentally an orientation towards what linguistics calls the irrealis mood: the mode of expression that charts our relationship to that which does not exist but may/should/might/could/would. This has a temporal axis as well, charting alternative and speculative engagements among and across the present, past, and future. Within this framework, speculative narratives interrogate the question of “if” as such; while this certainly encompasses the fantastic, it also incorporates works that drape themselves across the threshold of the imaginary and the real. Communities of political activism, for instance, are prolific generators of the optative and subjunctive narrative, of stories of wish and hope.

This course therefore constellates a broad array of Indigenous artists and thinkers that operate within this broad speculative mode. By working through how seemingly disparate texts by Indigenous authors might productively be placed into conversation—including the critical writings of Vine Deloria, Jr., films and a novel from the field of Indigenous Futurism, and documents and testimony from Indigenous activist movements—the intricate and generative interrelationship between reality and its narrated alternatives are centered as a site of fertile analysis. This locates Indigenous speculative narratives within the dense economy of Indigenous vision: the network of relationships between hope, fear, and contemplation as they continually reorient toward the alternative and irreal.

What does the body remember? How does skin obscure or reveal race, gender, and sexuality? This course will focus on performances, including theater, dance and new media, that posit skin as text. Building on women of color feminisms’ push for “theory in the flesh” based on the materials, lives of Black, indigenous and Latinx bodies, this course will focus on performances where skin is a site of both oppressive and liberation. We will turn to a variety of performance, including body modification, scarification, and bodily writing, to attune our analysis towards the limits and possibilities of embodies knowledge.

How does decolonial and indigenous thought shape the ways we approach knowledge production, particularly in performance studies? Focusing on an undisciplined approach to thinking, we will consider knowledge relationally across decolonial and anticolonial thought, indigenous ways of knowing, and artistic imagination. In doing so, we will aim to build heterogenous methodologies that consider the shared histories of racialization and colonization as they emerge within theory and practice. We will build an archive of methods in which colonial unknowing merges through refusal, illegibility and opacity in an effort to subvert colonial extraction. Open to graduate students across disciplines.

From the beginning American literature has been multicultural, artistically diverse, and filled with debates about human rights, religion, gender equality, economics, race, personal freedom, and how to live in relationship with the earth. Bringing together Native American, white European American, African
American, Latinx, and Asian American voices, this survey mixes canonical and less well-known texts. We’ll read work by familiar writers such as Phyllis Wheatley and Nathaniel Hawthorne as well as work by equally important but often less-familiar writers such as Handsome Lake, David Walker, William Apess, and Chinese merchants in California. We will think about the construction of literary history and the politics of representation. Who gets to speak? Write? Read? Who does not? Why does this matter in 2019? The class will include active class discussion and two field trips, one to the only known slave quarters still standing in New England, the other to the woods. There will be two papers and a final exam.

ENG 0176-01 Earth Matters ~ Elizabeth Ammons

TR | 12:00-1:15PM
Environmental questions are the most urgent questions of the twenty-first century. Where are we now? How did we get here? What future will we choose? American literature offers crucial answers. It also offers much-needed vision and hope. In this course we will think about human beings’ relation to the earth, the welfare of all life on the planet, and—above all—climate change. Reading is multicultural, bringing together Native American, African American, white European American, Latinx, and Asian American perspectives, and texts include novels, poetry, prose, and film. Authors range from Bill McKibben to Alice Walker, Rita Wong to Simon Ortiz and Louise Erdrich. Our study will include a field trip and class-discussion forms the basis of the course. The class counts toward the Environmental Studies major and the English major, where it fulfills the post-1860 requirement. It is also open to all students.

FAH 0280-01/0198-05 Seminar: Decolonial Aesthetics ~ Adriana Zavala

W | 9:00A-11:30AM
This seminar explores the role of visual art in countering what theorist Anibal Quijano, and others, have described as the coloniality of power. Our study will focus on artists and theorists whose works teach us to “know otherwise.” The seminar will focus on US Latinx artists, but give considerable play as well to Indigenous, Caribbean, Black, and Latin American artists whose de-colonial projects/aesthetics delink from modernity/coloniality by enacting radical epistemological shifts that affirm the reconstitution of subjectivities, experience, histories, lives, and worlds that dwell in the “borders” of imperial/colonial difference. The class will include close readings from history and in decolonial theory. Cross listed as LST 0194-02

This course may be used to fulfill the 50%, elective, or option course requirements for the Latino Studies minor.

Suggested requirements: graduate student status, advanced work in art history or in any of the majors/minors in the Consortium of Studies in Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora, or permission of the instructor.

Undergrads register at the 198 level.

HIST 0173-90 Advanced Special Topics, North America: Our Road to DACA and The Wall ~ Reed Ueda

W | 8:30-11:30AM
This seminar style course examines major themes in the histories of North America's indigenous people from the first human habitation to the present. Drawn from multiple disciplines, the readings strike a balance between those focusing on specific Native American communities and individuals (often from indigenous perspectives) and those taking a big-picture approach that emphasizes the connections between indigenous people throughout the continent. The course also has a theoretical dimension, as it explores rival ideas about historical causation and considers the nature and structure of traditional
academic disciplines. The emphasis throughout is on reading, discussion, and developing a term paper elaborating on one of the course themes.

**HIST 0193-95 Research Seminar, North America: Family Histories and American Culture~ Kendra Field**  
M | 1:30-4:00PM  
Explores diverse experiences of family and kinship in U.S. history, especially in the context of racial slavery, Indian removal, and transnational migration. Contextualizes the recent groundswell in scholarly approaches to family history, as well as the popularization of DNA testing and genealogical research in American culture. Allows students to develop skills and perspective necessary for the production of scholarly research based on family histories, including their own. Readings will include family histories, micro-histories, and memoir.

**SOC 0011-01 Sociology of Racial and Ethnicity ~ Daanika Gordon**  
TR | 3:00-4:15PM  
This course provides an introduction to sociological perspectives on race, ethnicity, and racism. It will help you think critically about issues related to race and ethnicity in American society and globally. The course begins with theories of race and racism. Topics include the social construction of racial and ethnic categories; prejudice, discrimination, and racial domination; and racial ideologies. The course then examines racial inequalities in several institutional contexts, including neighborhoods, schools, the labor market, and the criminal justice system. Finally, the course explores racial progress, with particular attention to the role of social movements in constructing the meaning of race and fighting for racial justice.