

CSER UNDERGRADUATE COURSES SPRING 2016

CSER W3928 Sec 001

COLONIZATION/DECOLONIZATION

Ngai, Mae W 10:10am-12:00pm Location: 420 Hamilton

Prerequisites: Open to CSER majors/concentrators only. Others may be allowed to register with the instructor's permission. This course explores the centrality of colonialism in the making of the modern world, emphasizing cross-cultural and social contact, exchange, and relations of power; dynamics of conquest and resistance; and discourses of civilization, empire, freedom, nationalism, and human rights, from 1500 to 2000. Topics include pre-modern empires; European exploration, contact, and conquest in the new world; Atlantic-world slavery and emancipation; and European and Japanese colonialism in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. The course ends with a section on decolonization and post-colonialism in the period after World War II. Intensive reading and discussion of primary documents.

CSER W1040

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE ETHNIC STUDIES

Gamber, J. MW 10:10am-11:25am Location: TBA

This course provides an introduction to central approaches and concepts animating the investigation of race and ethnicity. We will not treat either of these categories of difference as a given, nor as separable from other axes of social difference. Rather, we will apply an interdisciplinary and intersectional framework to illuminate how these concepts have come to emerge and cohere within a number of familiar and less familiar socio-cultural and historical contexts. We will consider how racial and ethnic differentiation as fraught but powerful processes have bolstered global labor regimes and imperial expansion projects; parsed, managed, and regulated populations; governed sexed and gendered logics of subject and social formation; and finally, opened and constrained axes of self-understanding, political organization, and social belonging. Special attention will be given to broadening students' understanding of racial and ethnic differentiation beyond examinations of identity. Taken together, theoretical and empirical readings, discussions, and outside film screenings will prepare students for further coursework in race and ethnic studies, as well as fields such as literary studies, women's studies, history, sociology, and anthropology.

CSER W3990

SENIOR PROJECT SEMINAR

McKinney, Warren – M 6:10pm-8:00pm Location: 420 Hamilton

The Senior Paper Colloquium will focus primarily on developing students' ideas for their research projects and discussing their written work. The course is designed to develop and hone the skills necessary to complete the senior paper. Students will receive guidance in researching for and writing an advanced academic paper. Conducted as a seminar, the colloquium provides the students a forum in which to discuss their work with each other. The CSER preceptor, who facilitates the colloquium, will also provide students with additional academic support, supplementary to the advice they receive from their individual faculty sponsors. While most of the course will be devoted to the students' work, during the first weeks of the term, students will read and discuss several ethnic studies-oriented texts to gain insight into the kinds of research projects done in the field.

CSER W4340 Sec 001

VISIONARY MEDICINE: RACIAL JUSTICE, HEALTH, AND SPECULATIVE FICTION

Sayantani, Dasgupta — T 12:10pm-2:00pm – 420 Hamilton Hall

This course begins with the premise that racial justice is the bioethical imperative of our time. It will explore the space of science fiction as a methodology of imagining such just futures, embracing the work

of Asian- and Afroturism, Cosmos Latinos and Indigenous Imaginaries. We will explore issues including Biocolonialism, Alien/nation, Transnational Labor and Reproduction, the Borderlands and Other Diasporic Spaces. This course will be seminar-style and will make central learner participation and presentation. The seminar will be inter-disciplinary, drawing from science and speculative fictions, cultural studies, gender studies, narrative medicine, disability studies, and bioethics. Ultimately, the course aims to connect the work of science and speculative fiction with on the ground action and organizing.

CSER W3970 Sec 001

ARABS IN LITERATURE & FILM

Handal, Nathalie — M 2:10pm-4:00pm – 420 Hamilton Hall

This course explores contemporary Arab American and the Arab Diaspora culture and history through literature and film produced by writers and filmmakers of these communities. As a starting historical point, the course explores the idea of Arabness, and examines the Arab migration globally, in particular to the U.S., focusing on three periods: 1875-1945, 1945-early 1960s, and late 1960s-present. By reading and viewing the most exciting and best-known literary works and films produced by these writers and filmmakers, students will attain an awareness of the richness and complexity of these societies.

Additionally, students will read historical and critical works to help them have a deeper understanding of these creative works. Discussions revolve around styles and aesthetics as well as identity and cultural politics. Some of the writers the class will cover include, Wajdi Mouawad, Diana Abu Jaber, Amin Maalouf, Tahar Ben Jelloun, Anthony Shadid, Hisham Matar, and Adhaf Soueif.

CSER W3913 Sec 001

VIDEO AS INQUIRY

Negron-Muntaner, Frances — R 2:10pm-4:00pm – 420 Hamilton

The goal of this course is to familiarize students with visual production, particularly video production, as a mode of inquiry to explore questions related to race, ethnicity, indigeneity, and other forms of social hierarchy and difference. The class will include readings in visual production as a mode of inquiry and on the basic craft of video production in various genres (fiction, documentary, and experimental). As part of the course, students will produce a video short and complete it by semester's end.

CSER W4483 Sec 001

SUBCITIZENSHIP

Rockefeller, Stuart — W 2:10pm-4:00pm – 420 Hamilton Hall

The class will survey the status of groups with compromised citizenship status internationally, including indigenous Bolivians, Indian immigrants to Dubai, and Arabs in France. Then we will look at several different kinds of subcitizenship in the United States, focusing on African Americans, Native Americans, “white trash,” and Chicanos. In the course of the term we will shift between looking at the administrative practices that render people subcitizens, experiences of marginalization, and how contestations such as the DREAM Act movement, the idea of “cultural citizenship” and newly powerful indigenous movements in South America are removing control of citizenship from states, and transforming citizenship for everyone.

CSER W3701 Sec 001

US-LATINO CULTURAL PRODUCTION

Morales, Edward — T 4:10pm–6:00pm – TBA

The course will investigate the possibility that hybrid constructions of identity among Latinos in the U.S. are the principal driving force behind the cultural production of Latinos in literature and film. There will

be readings on the linguistic implications of “Spanglish” and the construction of Latino racial identity, followed by examples of literature, film, music, and other cultural production that provide evidence for bilingual/bicultural identity as a form of adaptation to the U.S. Examples will be drawn from different Latino ethnicities from the Caribbean, Mexico, and the rest of Latin America.

CSER W3940 Sec 001

COMPARTIVE STUDY OF CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES

OuYang, Elizabeth — R 10:10am-12:00pm – 420 Hamilton

This course will examine how the American legal system decided constitutional challenges affecting the empowerment of African, Latino, and Asian American communities from the 19th century to the present. Focus will be on the role that race, citizenship, capitalism/labor, property, and ownership played in the court decision in the context of the historical, social, and political conditions existing at the time. Topics include the denial of citizenship and naturalization to slaves and immigrants, government-sanctioned segregation, the struggle for reparations for descendants of slavery, and Japanese Americans during World War II.

CSER W9001 Sec 001

DISSERTATION DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

Jacoby, Karl — M 12:10pm-2:00pm – 420 Hamilton Hall

CSER W4360 Sec 001

AMERICAN DIVA: RACE, GENDER, AND PERFORMANCE

Paredes, Deborah — T 10:10am-12:00pm – 420 Hamilton Hall

What makes a diva a diva? How have divas shaped and challenged our ideas about American culture, performance, race, space, and capital during the last century? This seminar explores the central role of the diva—the celebrated, iconic, and supremely skilled female performer—in the fashioning and re-imagining of racial, gendered, sexual, national, temporal, and aesthetic categories in American culture. Students in this course will theorize the cultural function and constitutive aspects of the diva and will analyze particular performances of a range of American divas from the 20th and 21st centuries and their respective roles in (re)defining American popular culture.

CSER W1011 SEC 001

INTRO ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

TBA – MW 8:40am-9:55am – 420 Hamilton

This course is a critical introduction to the field of Asian American Studies. We approach our topic through five lenses: Asians in early American/European imagination; Asian migration to the United States; Asian American racialization and identity formation; representations of Asian/Americans; and Asian diaspora. We will also attend to how the Asian American subject is inflected through sexuality, gender, imperialism, post-9/11 security, and nation. As an introductory course we cannot cover the variety of topics and populations that are the subjects of Asian American Studies, but we will develop a strong foundation for further inquiry either on your own or in other courses.

CSER W4350 Sec 001

CINEMA OF SUBVERSION

Gamalinda, Eric – R 4:10pm-6:00pm – 420 Hamilton Hall

Russian filmmaker Andre Tarkovsky said that “the artist has no right to an idea in which he is not socially committed.” Argentine filmmaker Fernando Solanas and Spanish-born Octavio Getino postulated an alternative cinema that would spur spectators to political action. In this course we will ask the question: How do authoritarian governments influence the arts, and how do artists respond? We will study how socially committed filmmakers have subverted and redefined cinema aesthetics to challenge

authoritarianism and repression. In addition, we will look at how some filmmakers respond to institutional oppression, such as poverty and corruption, even within so-called “free” societies. The focus is on contemporary filmmakers but will also include earlier classics of world cinema to provide historical perspective.

CSER W400I Sec 00I

METHODS IN AMERICAN STUDIES

Sandler, Matthew — M 4:10pm-6:00pm – 420 Hamilton Hall

This course will take a transnational look at the many ways that rumors, legends and conspiracy theories play a role in racial relations and conflict. From the judicial and popular riots in the U.S. justified by recurrent rumors of African-American insurrection, to accusations that French Jews were players in the ‘white slave trade,’ to tales of white fat-stealing monsters among indigenous people of Bolivia and Peru, rumors play a key role in constructing, enforcing and contesting regimes of racial identity and domination. In order to grasp rumor’s importance for race, we will need to understand how it works, so our readings will cover both instances of racialized rumor-telling, conspiracy theories and mass panics, and some key approaches to how rumors work as a social phenomenon.

HISTORY W405I

NARRATIVE, HEALTH, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Dasgupta, Sayantani – M 10:10am-12:00pm – 420 Hamilton Hall Seminar

This course will explore the connections between narrative, health, and social justice. In doing so, it broadens the mandate of narrative medicine – challenging each of us to bring a critical, self-reflective eye to our scholarship, teaching, practice, and organizing. We will examine such questions as: How do power and hierarchy – on an interpersonal, institutional, cultural, social, or political scale - impact the work of Narrative Medicine? How can we ‘read’ multiple, simultaneous narratives – ie. the individual and the sociopolitical? What are the intersections of Narrative Medicine with health advocacy and activism on local, national, and global levels? How can the pedagogy of Narrative Medicine enact social justice in health care? In other words, how do we teach Narrative Medicine and why? Finally, how are the stories we tell, and are told, manifestations of social injustice? How can we transform such stories into narratives of justice, health, and change?

CSER GRADUATE COURSES SPRING 2016

CSER G9000

DISSERTATION DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR: RACE, ETHNICITY, AND MIGRATION

Jacoby, Karl —M 12:10pm – 2:00pm—420 Hamilton Hall

This course is designed to guide graduate students through the process of producing a high-quality dissertation and to provide an interdisciplinary space for the critical examination of race, ethnicity, and immigration, among other topics.

AMST G4000

INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN STUDIES

Sandler, Matthew—M 4:10-4:00pm—420 Hamilton Hall

The M.A. Program in American Studies offers the unique opportunity to pursue interdisciplinary research in a vibrant community of undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty. Its situation in the Center recognizes the fundamental importance of race and ethnicity as organizing categories in American life.

Students design their own curriculum with the help of the program director. At the end of their matriculation, students write a thesis under the advisement of faculty from across the university. The M.A. provides an introduction to graduate work in American Studies and its related fields. It also works

as professional development for secondary educators, public historians, or culture workers from a variety of backgrounds.

The program offers opportunities to think about New York City as frame for American Studies. We regularly hold events in partnership with local cultural institutions to augment student research.

SPRING 2016 CROSS-REFERENCED COURSES

Spanish G9045 Sec 001

COLLOQUIUM: LATIN AMERICAN AND IBER CULTURE

Day/Time: TR 1:00pm-3:00pm Location: To be announced

Instructor: Carlos Alonso

French BC3073 Sec 001

AFRICA IN CINEMA

Day/Time: R 4:10pm-8:00pm Location: 324 Milbank Hall

Instructor: Kaiama Glover

African-American Studies G4080 Sec 004

TOPICS IN THE BLACK EXPERIENCE: RACE AND THE UNMAKING OF AMERICA

Day/Time: T 4:10pm-6:00pm Location: TBA

Instructor: Steven Gregory

History W3618 Sec 001

THE MODERN CARIBBEAN

Day/Time: MW 2:40pm-3:55pm Location: 310 Fayerweather

Instructor: Natasha Lightfoot

History W3663 Sec 001

MEXICO FROM REVOLUTION TO DEMOCRACY

Day/Time: MW 10:10am – 11:25am Location: TBA

Instructor: Pablo Plccato

Anthropology V1002 Sec 001

THE INTERPRETATION OF CULTURE

Day/Time: TR 10:10am-11:25am Location: TBA

Instructor: Elizabeth Povinelli

Anthropology W3998 Sec 0046

SUPERVISED INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

Day/Time: TBA Location: TBA

Instructor: Elizabeth Povinelli

African-American Studies W3998 Sec 0046

SUPERVISED INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

Day/Time: TBA Location: TBA

Instructor: Elizabeth Povinelli

African-American Studies C3930 Sec 002

TOPICS IN THE BLACK EXPERIENCE: AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMENS HISTORY

Day/Time: M 12:10pm – 2:00pm Location: TBA

Instructor: TBA

African-American Studies G4080 Sec 002

TOPICS IN THE BLACK EXPERIENCE: HOME IS HARLEM

Day/Time: R 2:10pm – 4:00pm Location: 758 EXT Schermerhorn Hall

Instructor: TBA

African-American Studies G4080 Sec 005

TOPICS IN THE BLACK EXPERIENCE: POLITICS IN THE ERA OF OBAMA

Day/Time: R 2:10pm – 4:00pm Location: 758 EXT Schermerhorn

Instructor: TBA

African-American Studies C3936 Sec 001

SEMINAR: BLACK INTELLECTUALS

Day/Time: W 12:10pm – 2:00pm Location: TBA

Instructor: Frank Guridy

African-American Studies G4080 Sec 003

TOPICS IN THE BLACK EXPERIENCE: GOSPEL MUSIC IN MODERN AMERICA

Day/Time: M 2:10pm – 4:00pm Location: 758 EXT Schermerhorn Hall

Instructor: Josef Sorett

African-American Studies G4080 Sec 002

TOPICS IN THE BLACK EXPERIENCE: HOME IS HARLEM

Day/Time: R 2:10pm – 4:00pm Location: 758 EXT Schermerhorn Hall

Instructor: TBA

African-American Studies G4080 Sec 001

TOPICS IN THE BLACK EXPERIENCE: READING BLACK GIRLS

Day/Time: T 2:10pm – 4:00pm Location: 758 EXT Schermerhorn Hall

Instructor: Farah Griffin

English W4622 Sec 001

AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE II

Day/Time: TR 2:40pm – 3:55pm Location: TBA

Instructor: Marcellus Blount