

Center for the Study of **Ethnicity & Race**

**Comparative Ethnic Studies
Latino Studies
Asian American Studies
Indigenous/Native American Studies
Individualized Courses of Study**

***CSER
Student
Guide
2014-15***

About CSER

Founded in 1999, the **Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race (CSER)** is a vibrant teaching, research and public engagement space. The Center's mission is to support and promote the most innovative thinking about race, ethnicity, indigeneity and other categories of difference to better understand their role and impact in modern societies. What makes CSER unique is its attention to the comparative study of racial and ethnic categories in the production of social identities, power relations, and forms of knowledge in a multiplicity of contexts, including the arts, social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities.

To promote its mission, the Center organizes conferences, seminars, exhibits, film screenings, and lectures that bring together faculty, as well as undergraduate and graduate students, with diverse interests and backgrounds. CSER partners with departments, centers, and institutes at Columbia and works with colleagues and organizations on campus and off campus in order to facilitate an exchange of knowledge.

At present, CSER is Columbia's main interdisciplinary space for the study of ethnicity and race and their implications for thinking about culture, power, hierarchy, social identities, and political communities. The Center is also pursuing a wide range of public programming, including the biannual "Artist at the Center"; the Caribbean Faculty Working Group, the Indigenous Forum and Latino speaker series, the Transnational Asian/American Studies speaker series, the CSER Symposium, and the "Media and Idea Lab Annual Lecture."

Major Requirements

Students choosing the major/concentration in ethnicity and race studies may focus their work on any of our four tracks: **Asian American Studies**, **Latino/a Studies**, **Native American/Indigenous Studies** and **Comparative Ethnic Studies**. Students also have the option of designing an individualized course of study. Individualized courses of study may encompass a wide variety of themes. Among the most studied are those involving the relationship between race, ethnicity and law; health; human rights; urban spaces; cultural production; visual culture; and the environment.

For the Major

The major consists of a minimum of 27 credits. Students will take three core courses and write a senior research project, or thesis. Following the core courses, students will take a minimum of four elective courses, one of which must be a seminar.

Core Courses

- ♦ CSER W3919 Modes of Inquiry (4 points)
- ♦ CSER W3928 Colonization/Decolonization and the Making of the Modern World (4 points)
- ♦ One of the following:
 - CSER W1010 Introduction to Comparative Ethnic Studies (4 points)
 - CSER W1040 Critical Approaches to the Study of Ethnicity and Race (3 points)
- CSER W3990 Senior Project Seminar (4 points) –must take “Modes of Inquiry” first.

The final requirement for the major is completion of a Senior Essay, to be written in the spring of the senior year. The final requirement for the major is completion of a Senior Essay, to be written in the

spring of the senior year. Students may fulfill this requirement in one of two ways. One, by matriculating in the Senior Thesis course and writing it under the supervision of the course faculty. Two, by taking an additional 4-point seminar where a major paper is required and further develop the paper into a thesis length work (minimum of 30 pages) under the supervision of a CSER faculty member

All CSER seniors are expected to present their paper at annual undergraduate symposium in April.

Specialization

Students must complete at least four courses, in consultation with their major advisor, in one of the following tracks/areas of specialization:

- ♦ Asian American studies
- ♦ Comparative Ethnic Studies
- ♦ Latino/a Studies
- ♦ Native American/Indigenous Studies
- ♦ Individualized course of study

Language Courses

One of the following is highly recommended, although not required for the major:

- ♦ One course beyond the intermediate-level in language pertinent to the student's focus.
- ♦ An introductory course in a language other than that used to fulfill the degree requirements, but that is pertinent to the student's focus.
- ♦ A Linguistics or other course that critically engages language.
- ♦ An Outside language and study abroad program that include an emphasis on language acquisition.

For the Concentration

The concentration requires a minimum of 19 credits. Students will take two core courses and four elective courses, one of which must be a seminar.

Core Courses

- ♦ CSER W3928 Colonization/Decolonization and the Making of the Modern World (4 points)
- ♦ One of the following:
 - CSER W1010 Introduction to Comparative Ethnic Studies (4 points)
 - CSER W1040 Critical Approaches to the Study of Ethnicity and Race (3 points)

Specialization

Students must complete at least four courses, in consultation with their major advisor, in one of the following tracks/areas of specialization:

- ♦ Asian American studies
- ♦ Comparative Ethnic Studies
- ♦ Latino/a Studies
- ♦ Native American/Indigenous Studies
- ♦ Individualized courses of study

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS PROGRAM

CSER students may choose to write and/or produce an Honors project. If a monograph, the honors thesis is expected to be 35-50 pages in length. Honor projects can also take other forms, such as video or websites. These projects also require a written component but of a shorter length than the traditional thesis.

Honors students perform research as part of the Senior Project Seminar (CSER 3990) during their senior year. Projects are due in early April.

To be awarded departmental honors in the College or the School of General Studies, the student must satisfy all the requirements for the major, maintain a 3.6 GPA in the major courses and complete a high quality project. In addition, each student is expected to meet periodically with his or her supervising project advisor and preceptor.

CSER SENIOR AWARDS

In addition to departmental honors, CSER also confers the following awards to two graduating seniors:

CSER Award for Outstanding Thesis

A CSER faculty committee will review all senior projects and will select one for the “Outstanding Thesis” award. As part of its deliberation process, the committee reviews recommendations made by CSER faculty, the “Modes of Inquiry” course instructor and the CSER preceptor. In order to receive this award, the student must keep a GPA of 3.6 or above in the major courses.

CSER Award for Academic Excellence

CSER confers this award to a student who has consistently demonstrated her/his intellectual capacity in and outside the classroom. In order to receive this award, the student must keep a GPA of 3.6 or above in the major courses.

Fall 2014 Courses

CSER W3928 Sec 001

COLONIZATION/DECOLONIZATION

Prof. Christopher L Brown—T 9:00am - 10:50am – 420 Hamilton Hall
CSER W3928 is open only to CSER majors/concentrators. Others may be allowed to register with permission of the instructor.

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; European and Japanese colonialism in Asia, Africa, the Middle East. The course ends with a section on decolonization and post-colonialism in the period after World War II.

CSER W3924 Sec 001

LATIN AMERICAN & LATINO SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Prof. Stuart Rockefeller—T 11:00 - 12:50pm—420 Hamilton Hall

A wave of popular social movements has been transforming politics and social reality in Latin America. In the United States, Latinos/as are building on decades of organizing and demographic growth to claim a new public persona and challenge their marginal status. What are the significant areas of political action, and how can we understand them? What claims can those disenfranchised for reasons of race, class or national origin make on societies? We will discuss a number of important social movements throughout the region, while developing tools for understanding social movements and their possibilities.

CSER W3919 Sec 001

MODES OF INQUIRY

Prof. Catherine Fennell —W 2:10pm-4:00pm—420 Hamilton Hall

*Major Requirement

Must register for Lab Session Mondays 2:10-3:10pm. This class, a combination of a seminar and a workshop, will prepare students to

conduct, write up and present original research. It has several aims and goals. First, the course introduces students to a variety of ways of thinking about knowledge as well as to specific ways of knowing and making arguments key to humanistic and social science fields. Second, this seminar asks students to think critically about the approaches they employ in pursuing their research. The course will culminate in a semester project, not a fully executed research project, but rather an 8-10 page proposal for research that will articulate a question, provide basic background on the context that this question is situated in, sketch preliminary directions and plot out a detailed methodological plan for answering this question. Students will be strongly encouraged to think of this proposal as related to their thesis or senior project. Over the course of the semester, students will also produce several short exercises to experiment with research techniques and genres of writing.

CSER W3921 Sec 001 – LAB

MODES OF INQUIRY LAB

Prof. Ian Shin—M 2:10pm-4:00pm—Location 402B IAB

Co-requisites: Modes of Inquiry (CSER W3919) this lab session meets 5 times a semester, for an hour.

CSER W3923 Sec 001

LATINO & ASIAN AMERICAN MEMOIR

Prof. Nathalie Handal —M 2:10pm – 4:00pm—420 Hamilton Hall

In this class, we will explore Latino and Asian American memoir, focusing on themes of immigration and duality. How do we construct identity and homeland when we are ‘multiple’? How do we define ourselves and how do others define us? By reading some of the most challenging and exciting memoirs by Latino and Asian Americans, we will attempt to answer these questions and/or at least try to understand these transnational and multicultural experiences. This class combines the critical with the creative—students have to read and critic memoirs as well as write a final 10page nonfiction creative writing piece. *Students will also have the opportunity to speak to some Latino and Asian authors in class or via SKYPE. Students will be asked to prepare questions in advance for the author—whose work(s) we will have read and discussed. This usually arises interesting and thought-provoking conversations and debates. This

'Dialogue Series' within the class exposes students to a wide-range of voices and offers them a deeper understanding of the complexity of duality.

CSER W3926 Sec 001

LATIN MUSIC AND IDENTITY

Prof. Edward Morales —T 2:10pm – 4:00pm—420 Hamilton Hall

Latin music has had a historically strained relationship with mainstream music tastes, exploding in occasional 'boom' periods, and receding into invisibility in others. What if this were true because it is a space for hybrid construction of identity that directly reflects a mixture of traditions across racial lines in Latin America. This course will investigate Latin music's transgression of binary views of race in Anglo-American society, even as it directly affects the development of pop music in America. From New Orleans jazz to Texas corridos, salsa, rock, and reggaeton, Latin music acts as both as a soundtrack and a structural blueprint for the 21st century's multicultural experiment. There will be a strong focus on studying Latin music's political economy, and investigating the story it tells about migration and globalization.

CSER W3905 Sec 001

ASIAN AMERICAN & PSYCHOLOGY OF RACE

Prof. Shinhee Han —W 11:00am – 12:50pm—420 Hamilton Hall

This seminar provides an introduction to mental health issues for Asian Americans. In particular, it focuses on the psychology of Asian Americans as racial/ethnic minorities in the United States by exploring a number of key concepts: immigration, racialization, prejudice, family, identity, pathology, and loss. We will examine the development of identity in relation to self, family, college, and society. Quantitative investigation, qualitative research, psychology theories of multiculturalism, and Asian American literature will also be integrated into the course.

CSER W3490 Sec 001

POST 9/11 IMMIGRATION POLICIES

Prof. Elizabeth OuYang—R 11:00am – 12:50pm—420 Hamilton Hall

Since September 11, 2001, there has been an avalanche of immigration enforcement policies and initiatives proposed or

implemented under the guise of national security. This course will analyze the domino effect of the Patriot Act, the Absconder Initiative, Special Registration, the Real I.D. Act, border security including the building of the 700 mile fence along the U.S./Mexico border, Secured Communities Act-that requires the cooperation of state and local authorities in immigration enforcement, the challenge to birthright citizenship, and now the congressional hearings on Islamic radicalization. Have these policies been effective in combating the war on terrorism and promoting national security? Do immigrant communities feel safer in the U.S.? How have states joined the federal bandwagon of immigration enforcement or created solutions to an inflexible, broken immigration system?

CSER W3922 Sec 001

ASIAN AMERICAN CINEMA

Gamalinda, Eric —R 6:10pm – 8:00pm—420 Hamilton Hall

This seminar focuses on the critical analysis of Asian representation and participation in Hollywood by taking a look at how mainstream American cinema continues to essentialize the Asian and how Asian American filmmakers have responded to Orientalist stereotypes. We will analyze various issues confronting Asian American communities, including "yellowface"; white patriarchy; male and female stereotypes; the "model minority" myth; "Chinatowns" as spectacle; panethnicity; the changing political interpretations of the term "Asian American" throughout American history; gender and sexuality; and cultural hegemonies and privileging within the Asian community. Feature films and documentaries will be supplemented by a substantial amount of literature to provide a solid grounding on race theory and help students examine Asian [mis] representation in mainstream media.

CSER G9000

DISSERTATION DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR: RACE, ETHNICITY, AND MIGRATION

Prof. Van C. Tran—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.

G4390 section 001

BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES

Prof. Claudio Lomnitz —T 4:10pm-6:pm—Location TBD

This graduate seminar focuses on the relationship between international borders and social boundaries within national societies. It has as its premise a double paradox of contemporary life: the hardening of ethnic and racial boundaries at a time when goods and information flow across national borders quite freely; and the racialization of social relations at a time when racial theories lack scientific prestige, and racial categories have become conspicuously unstable. The seminar explores anthropological, historical, political and aesthetic dimensions of the relationship between national borders and social boundaries in a comparative context, and develops a conceptual foundation for analysis of the relationship between borders and boundaries.

V3120 section 001

HISTORICAL RITUALS IN LATIN AMERICA

Claudio Lomnitz—TR 10:10am-11:25am – Location TBD

Anthropologists and historians of literacy and communication have emphasized the reliance on multi-vocal imagery in the organization of social and political life in Latin America. Historically, the salient role of image and of ritual in political ritual was fed by the chasm between literate and illiterate segments of the population. During the twentieth century, however, the rise of mass politics on one hand, and television and other visual media on the other, gave a new lease on the vibrant relevance of historical ritual and myth in local political life. This course explores the role of religious and secular ritual and myth in framing historical processes. It makes special emphasis on the use of Catholic ritual, imagery, and mythology in the European conquest and colonization of the continent, and in revolution, nation building, civic life, and sexual politics, since the 19th century.

V3821 section 001

NATIVE AMERICA

Audra Simpson—T 2:10pm-4:00pm, 603 Hamilton Hall

This is an undergraduate seminar that takes up primary and secondary sources and reflections to a) provide students with an

historical overview of Native American issues and representational practices b) provide students with an understanding of the ways in which land expropriation and concomitant military and legal struggle have formed the core of Native-State relations and are themselves central to American and Native American history and culture c) provide students with an understanding of Native representational practices, political subjectivity and aspiration.

W4321 section 001

HUMAN IDENTITY: DNA, RACE, AND IDENTITY

Prof. Marya Pollack and Prof. Robert E. Pollack – W 2:10-4:00pm - Location TBD

The course focuses on human identity, beginning with the individual and progressing to communal and global viewpoints using a framework of perspectives from biology, genetics, medicine, psychiatry, religion and the law.

Spring 2015 Courses

CSER W1010

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE ETHNIC STUDIES

Instructor: Nelson Maldonado-Torres – T,TH 4:10-5:25pm - Location 207 Mathematics

Introduction to the field of Comparative Ethnic Studies. This course serves as partial fulfillment of the Global Core Requirement. Students must register for a Discussion Session.

CSER W1601

INTRODUCTION TO LATINO STUDIES

Instructor TBA – MW 1:10-2:25pm - Location TBA

This course provides an introductory, interdisciplinary discussion of the major issues surrounding this nation's Latino population. The focus is on social scientific perspectives utilized by scholars in the field of Latino Studies. Major demographic, social, economic, and political trends are discussed. Key topics covered in the course include: the evolution of Latino identity and ethnicity; the main Latino sub-populations in the United States; the formation of Latino communities in the United States; Latino immigration; issues of race

and ethnicity within the Latino population; socioeconomic status and labor force participation of Latinos; Latino social movements; and the participation of Latinos in U.S. civil society.

CSER W3701

US-LATINO CULTURAL PRODUCTION

Edward Morales – R 2:10-4:00pm - Location 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 W3963 Sec 001

NATIVE AMERICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Press, Daniel —R 2:10pm – 4:00pm—420 Hamilton Hall

While casinos have pulled a number of small tribes out of poverty, the vast majority of Indians living on reservations continue to live at a level of poverty that is the equivalent of that found in third world countries or worse. For example, the life expectancy of a male on the Pine Ridge Reservation is lower than that of a male in most African countries. The course will explore the various approaches Indian tribes have or could take to promote the economies on their reservation, seeking to determine what elements produce a successful outcome. Areas to be explored include the role of tribal governments in economic development, land as an economic asset, gaming, energy and minerals development, finance, labor, individual entrepreneurship and the opportunity for multi-tribal companies. The course will begin with a review of basic theories of economic development and an exploration of lessons learned from economic development in underdeveloped nations.

CSER W3940

COMPARATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES

Elizabeth OuYang - R 11:00am-12:50pm 420 Hamilton Hall

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. Topics include the role of the Supreme Court, the denial of citizenship and naturalization to slaves and immigrants, government sanctioned segregation, the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, the prison industry, police brutality and racial profiling, post-9/11 immigration policies, and voting rights.

CSER W3970

ARABS IN LITERATURE AND FILM

Nathalie Handal – M 2:10-4:00pm 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 W3990

SENIOR PROJECT SEMINAR

Instructor TBA – M 9:00-10:50am 420 Hamilton Hall

**Must have first taken Modes of Inquiry*

The final requirement for the major is completion of a Senior Essay, to be written in the spring of the senior year. Alternatively, students may fulfill this requirement by taking an additional seminar where a major paper is required or by writing an independent essay under the supervision of a faculty member. Seniors who wish to do a senior research project are required to take the Senior Project Colloquium in the fall of the senior year. Supporting coursework will include a one-

point Fall term Practicum (a one-hour-and-fifteen-minute meeting per week) as well as a short exploratory writing exercise to prepare the groundwork for thesis writing in the spring. The Spring term, then, will consist of independent research and a three-point Senior Essays Colloquium and presentation in the end-of-year conference.

CSER W4483

SUBCITIZENSHIP **NEW COURSE*

Stuart Rockefeller – T 11:00am-12:50pm – Location 420 Hamilton

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 W4482

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS: FROM LOCAL IDENTITIES TO THE GLOBAL INDIGENOUS MOVEMENT

Elsa Stamatopoulou – TR - 4:10pm-5:25pm – Location TBA

Indigenous Peoples, numbering more than 370 million in some 90 countries and about 5000 groups and representing a great part of the world's human diversity and cultural heritage, continue to raise major controversies and to face threats to their physical and cultural existence. The main task of this interdisciplinary course is to explore the complex historic circumstances and political actions that gave rise to the international Indigenous movement through the human rights agenda and thus also produced a global Indigenous identity on all continents, two intertwined and deeply significant phenomena over the past fifty years. We will analyze the achievements, challenges and potential of the dynamic interface between the Indigenous Peoples' movement-one of the strongest social movements of our times- and the international community, especially the United Nations system.

CSER G9001

DISSERTATION DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

(Must have taken CSER G9000)

Van Tran — M 12:10pm-2:00pm – Location TBA

This class is designed with three objectives in mind. First to guide graduate students through the process of producing a high-quality dissertation. Second, to open up an interdisciplinary space for the critical examination of race, ethnicity, and indigeniety, among other topics. Third, to plan a conference linked to the participants' projects for the spring semester of 2014.

CSER W3961

WEALTH & POVERTY IN THE US

Hidetaka Hirota - R 9:00am-10:50AM – Location 420 Hamilton

This seminar explores the problems of poverty in United States history based on intensive reading and class discussion. Already in the colonial period, poverty emerged as one of the central public concerns in American society. From the post-Revolutionary period to the late twentieth century, politicians, reformers, journalists, and the poor themselves continued to discuss the causes of and solutions to poverty as well as the best forms of charity that should be adopted in the United States. In poverty, as these peoples' voices suggest, issues of fundamental importance in United States history, such as visions of American society, freedom, citizenship, governmental power, forces of capitalism, immigration, race and ethnicity, and gender converged. By examining the ideologies of poverty, debates over social welfare, the development of charitable institutions, and the lives of the poor, this course explores the historical significance of poverty in the United States. An exercise in interdisciplinary study, this course draws materials from a wide range of academic disciplines including history, Ethnic Studies, literary criticism, sociology, and law.

Faculty

Core Faculty and Executive Committee

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