

CSER

Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race



Artwork: Raj Dhunna

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

*Student
GUIDE
2019-20*

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 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/Concentration Requirements

The requirements for this program were modified on October 25, 2018. Students who declared this program before this date should contact the director of undergraduate studies for the department in order to confirm their correct course of study.

The major in ethnicity and race studies consists of a minimum of 27 points.

Core Courses

All majors are required to take 3 core courses, as listed below:

1. CSER UN1010: Introduction to Comparative Ethnic Studies (4 points)

OR

CSER UN1040: Critical Approaches to the Study of Ethnicity and Race (3 points)

2. CSER W3928 Colonization / Decolonization (4 points)

OR

CSER UN3942 Race and Racisms (4 points)

3. CSER UN3919 Modes of Inquiry (4 points)

Specialization

All majors will select one of the areas of specialization listed below from which to complete their remaining coursework:

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

Majors who elect *NOT* to follow the Honors track must complete at least five CSER elective courses, in consultation with their major adviser, within their area of specialization. At least one of these electives must be a writing-intensive seminar (3000- or above level courses).

Check CSER course offerings for semesterly electives.

Majors who elect to follow the Honors track must complete at least four CSER elective courses, in consultation with their major adviser, within their area of specialization.

Major/Concentration Requirements

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 includes an emphasis on language acquisition

For the Concentration

The requirements for this program were modified on October 2, 2018. Students who declared this program before this date should contact the director of undergraduate studies for the department in order to confirm their correct course of study.

The concentration in ethnicity and race studies requires a minimum of 19 points.

Core Courses:

All students are required to take two core courses as listed below.

1. CSER UN1010 Introduction to Comparative Ethnic Studies (4 points)

OR

CSER UN1040 Critical Approaches to the Study of Ethnicity and Race (3 points)

2. CSER UN3928 Colonization/Decolonization (4 Points)

OR

CSER UN3942 Race and Racisms (4 points)

Specialization

Students must complete at least four courses, in consultation with their major advisor, in one of the following tracks/areas of specialization. At least one of the elective courses must be a seminar:

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

Departmental Honors Program

Majors who elect to follow the Honors track must complete at least four CSER elective courses within their area of specialization, and maintain a 3.6 GPA in the major. In lieu of a fifth elective, Honors majors are required to enroll in the following course in the spring semester of their senior year, during which they are required to write a thesis:

CSER UN3990 Senior Project Seminar (4 points)

Honors majors are required to present their senior essays at the annual undergraduate symposium in April. Students may fulfill this option in one of the following two ways:

1. By matriculating in the Senior Thesis course and writing the thesis under the supervision of the course faculty.
2. By taking an additional 4-point seminar where a major paper is required and further developing the paper into a thesis length work (minimum of 30 pages) under the supervision of a CSER faculty member.

CSER Senior Awards

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.

Travel Opportunities

Study Abroad

Students are highly encouraged to participate in study-abroad programs, as they represent an exciting opportunity to learn new languages and live in countries that are germane to their areas of study. In addition, travel abroad can enrich every student's intellectual experience by providing an opportunity to learn about other perspectives on ethnicity and race.

In the past, students have participated in study-abroad programs in many parts of the world, including Australia, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and South Africa. To ensure that study abroad complements the major and integrates effectively with the major's requirements, students are encouraged to consult with CSER's undergraduate adviser as early in their academic program as possible. The director of undergraduate studies can advise students in what may be relevant programs for their areas.

CSER Summer Grant

Columbia Program in Mexico City: Colonization/Decolonization

The Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race provides Columbia University students partial to full tuition to participate in the Columbia Program in Mexico City: Colonization/Decolonization during the summer.

Eligibility:

- All Columbia College, Engineering and Applied Science: Undergraduate, General Studies, Global Programs, Graduate School of Arts and Science, School of the Arts, International and Public Affairs, Barnard.
- Priority will be given to CSER students.
- Provides partial to full tuition support (amount varies between \$1,000 and \$6,000). Average of five awards per summer.

For more information visit the CSER website: www.cser.columbia.edu/academics

FALL COURSES

CSER UN1011 SEC 001 CS
HISPANIC AMERICAN STUDIES RAC

CSER UN1040 SEC 001 CSER U
ROACHES TO THE STUDY OF ARABS
ETHNICITY AND RACE

CSER UN3022 SEC 001 OF DEPORTATION TO LATIN AMERICA CSER UN3022 SEC 001 OF DEPORTATION TO LATIN AMERICA

CSER UN3219 SEC 001 CSER
OD AND SOVEREIGNTY CO

UN3701 Se



28 Sec 001
LONIZATION

UN3940 Sec 001
CONSTITUTIONAL
CHALLENGESR GU4483 Sec 001
SUBCITIZENSHIP

**AMST GR4001
AFRICAN STUDIES**

CSER GU4340 Sec 6
VISIONARY MEDICINE.
JUSTICE, HEALTH,
AND SPECULATIVE FICTION.

CSER GU4350 Sec 001
CINEMA OF SUBVERSION

**CSER GU4482 SEC 001
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES;
MOVEMENTS/RTS**

Fall Courses

NEW CSER COURSE

CSER UN3932 SEC 001

US LATINX HISTORY

Alex La Rotta -- W 12:10PM-2PM | 420 HAMILTON HALL SEMINAR RM

With a current presence of over fifty-five million people of Hispanic descent, Latina/o/xs have played a significant role in shaping U.S. history and national identity. This course is intended to introduce students to some of the major themes in U.S. Latinx history with particular attention to source material and methodologies in assigned readings. More broadly, we will explore the histories of the diverse Latina/o/x populations in the U.S. to understand how Latina/o/xs maintain cultural and political links within the diaspora and fit within shifting national projects of race and citizenship. To this end, we will also discuss the incorporation of Latina/o/xs into society both as a broad demographic group and specifically within major immigrant groups: Mexicans, Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Central Americans, and South Americans.

CSER UN1040

CRITICAL APPROACHES - STUDY OF ETHNICITY AND RACE

*Major Requirement

Prof. Jennifer Lee —M 2:10pm-4pm

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 UN3219 Sec 001

NATIVE FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Prof. Hi'ilei Hobart -- T 12:10pm-2pm

What is food sovereignty? How do you decolonize your diet? This course takes a comparative approach to understanding how and why food is a central component of contemporary sovereignty discourse. More than just a question of eating, Indigenous foodways offer important critiques of, and interventions to, the settler state: food connects environment, community, public health, colonial histories, and economics. Students will theorize these connections by reading key works from across the fields of Critical Indigenous Studies, Food Studies, Philosophy, History, and Anthropology. In doing so, we will question the potentials, and the limits, of enacting, food sovereignty within the settler state, whether dietary decolonization is possible in the so-called age of the Anthropocene, and the limits of working within and against today's legacies of the colonial food system.

CSER UN1601 Sec 001

INTRODUCTION TO LATINO STUDIES

Prof. Frances Negrón-Muntaner – M 2:10pm-4pm

The objective of this course is to provide an introduction to the field of Latino Studies and some of its major debates. These include: the constitution of Latino identity as a form of "race," the colonial contexts of the Latino presence in the U.S., the various waves of Latino immigration and their impact, the relationship of Latinos to the labor force, the centrality of mass media and music to the production of Latinidad, and gender dynamics and sexual politics in Latino life, among others.

CSER UN3490 Sec 001

POST 9/11 IMMIGRATION POLICIES

Prof. Elizabeth OuYang—R 10:10am –12:00pm

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? How have states joined the federal bandwagon of immigration enforcement or created solutions to an inflexible, broken immigration system?

Fall Courses

CSER UN3904 Sec 001

RUMOR AND RACIAL CONFLICT

Prof. Stuart Rockefeller—T 10:10am -12pm

This course will take a transnational look at the strange ways that race and mass rumors have interacted. 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.

CSER UN3905

ASIAN AMERICANS AND THE PSYCHOLOGY OF RACE

Prof. Shinhee Han—M 10:10am – 12pm

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 UN3919

MODES OF INQUIRY

Prof. Sayantani Dasgupta—W 10:10pm-12:00pm

*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 UN3922

ASIAN AMERICAN CINEMA

Prof. Eric Gamalinda—R 4:10pm – 6:00pm

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; we will then view some examples of contemporary Asian American films and discuss how they challenge culturally embedded stereotypes.

Fall Courses

CSER UN3923

LATINO & ASIAN AMERICAN MEMOIR

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

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 UN3926

LATIN MUSIC AND IDENTITY

Prof. Edward Morales—T 4:10pm – 6:00pm

Office Hours – email for appointment

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.

CSER UN3928

COLONIZATION/DECOLONIZATION

*Major Requirement

Prof. Karl Jacoby, —W 2:10pm – 4pm

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.

CSER GR4000

INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN STUDIES

Prof. Matthew Sandler —M 4:10-6:00pm

This course focuses on the interpretation of primary sources, and how to write about the different genres of American culture and history. "Methods in American Studies" focuses on the history of the American and Ethnic Studies as areas of academic inquiry. Here students address issues in their own practice as researchers in relation to the major debates in the field.

CSER UN4360

AMERICAN DIVA: RACE, GENDER AND PERFORMANCE

Prof. Deborah Paredez—T 10:10pm-12pm

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 explored 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 of American culture.

SPRING COURSES

CSER UN1011 SEC 001
TO ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

CSER UN1040 SEC 001
APPROACHES TO THE STUDY
OF ETHNICITY AND RACE

CSER UN3219 SEC 001
FOOD AND SOVEREIGNTY

CSER UN3940 SEC 001
NIZATION/DECOLONIZATION

CSER UN3940 SEC 001
COMPARATIVE STUDIES
CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES

CSER UN3942 SEC 001
RACE AND RACISM

CSER GU4002 SEC 001
CONFLICT URBANISM: PR

CSER GU4340 Sec 001
VISIONARY MEDICINE: RACIAL
JUSTICE, HEALTH, AND
SPECULATIVE FICTION

CSER GU4350 Sec 001
CINEMA OF SUBVERSION

CSER GU4482 SEC 001
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES;
MOVEMENTS/RTS

Spring Courses

CSER UN1010 SEC 001

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE ETHNIC STUDIES

***Major Requirement**

Prof. Mae Ngai—MW 4:10am-5:25pm | 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.

NEW CSER COURSE

CSER UN3934 SEC 001

BLACK/BROWN HISTORY OF ROCK & ROLL

Alex La Rotta— M 10:10pm - 12pm | 420 Hamilton Hall Seminar Room

This course is designed to get students to think more deeply about the ethno-racial roots—and routes—of rock and roll music as a national, historical phenomenon. In this class, we'll conceive rock and roll broadly to include peripheral genres which are related to or derived from its origins, including rhythm and blues, jazz, soul, funk, boogaloo, salsa, disco, and hip-hop, to thread together and discuss the relationships between music, identity, and race in the United States. Latinxs and African Americans have played significant, if underrecognized, roles in shaping American popular music; the cultural connections and musical interactivity between these communities are lesser understood in popular narratives of postwar American music. To this end, this course will uncover a broad social, racial, national, and transnational history of rock and roll to understand how musicians of color innovated long-standing musical traditions in their communities; maintained cultural and political links within the diaspora; and navigated regional racial schemas in the United States and Latin America.

Spring Courses

CSER UN1011 SEC 001

INTRO ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Prof. Glenn Magpantay– T 12:10pm - 2pm

This interdisciplinary course will examine major themes within the field of Asian American Studies. Through critical analysis of historical, scholarly, literary, and visual media, we will look at the intersecting histories and the social, economic and political contexts that have shaped and continue to shape the multifaceted understandings and experiences of Asian Americans in the U.S as well as Asian diasporic communities across the Americas. We will focus on the waves and patterns of Asian migration to the US beginning in the 19th century so as to address major themes and key contemporary issues such as the history of Asian exclusion and marginalization in the U.S.; multiethnic Asian American identity formation and racialization; affirmative action and production of the “model minority” myth; constructions of gender and sexuality; Islamophobia; activism and social movements and; multiracial solidarities and radical politics.

CSER UN3701 Sec 001

US-LATINO CULTURAL PRODUCTION

Prof. Edward Morales – T 4:10pm–6:00pm

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 UN3913 Sec 001

VIDEO AS INQUIRY

Prof. Frances Negron-Muntaner - T 2:10pm-4:00pm - Location: 420 Hamilton Hall

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 GU3935 SEC 001

HIST OF THE US-MEXICO BORDER

Prof. Claudio Lomnitz -- T 10:10am-12pm - Location: 420 Hamilton Hall

Beginning in the 1980s, border crossing became an academic rage in the humanities and the social sciences. This was a consequence of globalization, a historical process that reconfigured the boundaries between economy, society and culture, and it was also a primary theme of post-modernist aesthetics, which celebrated playful borrowing of multiple and diverse historical references. Within that frame, interest in the US-Mexican border shifted dramatically. Since that border is the longest and most intensively crossed boundary between a rich and a poor country, it became a paradigmatic point of reference. Places like Tijuana or El Paso, with their rather seedy reputation, had until then been of interest principally to local residents, but they now became exemplars of post-modern "hybridity," and were meant to inspire the kind of transnational scholarship that is required in today's world.

CSER UN3940 Sec 001

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES

Prof. Elizabeth OuYang -- R 10:10am-12:00pm

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.

Spring Courses

CSER UN3942 SEC 001

RACE AND RACISMS

Prof. Catherine Fennel – W 2:10pm-4:00pm

In this class we will approach race and racism from a variety of disciplinary and intellectual perspectives, including: critical race theory/philosophy, anthropology, history and history of science and medicine. We will focus on the development and deployment of the race concept since the mid- 19th century. Students will come to understand the many ways in which race has been conceptualized, substantiated, classified, managed and observed in the (social) sciences, medicine, and public health. We will also explore the practices and effects of race (and race-making) in familiar and less familiar social and political worlds. More specifically, we will address a series of questions, both historical and contemporary. How does the concept of race shift over time? With what consequences? What is the relationship between philological commitment to “a family of languages” and the development of a modern, biological concept of race? How has the relationship between “race” and “culture” been articulated in the history of anthropology in particular, and in racial theory more broadly? Can there be a concept of race without phenotype—a solely genotypic racial grouping?

CSER UN3970 Sec 001

ARABS IN LITERATURE & FILM

Prof. Nathalie Handal – M 2:10pm-4:00pm

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.

CSER UN3990

SENIOR PROJECT SEMINAR

Prof. Darius Echeverria – R 10:10am-12pm - Location: 420 Hamilton Hall

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.

CSER GU4340 Sec 001

VISIONARY MEDICINE: RACIAL JUSTICE, HEALTH, AND SPECULATIVE FICTION

Prof. Sayantani Dasgupta – W 10:10am-12pm - Location: 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.

CSER GU4350 Sec 001

CINEMA OF SUBVERSION

Prof. Eric Gamalinda– R 4:10-6pm location: TBA

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. The focus is on contemporary filmmakers but will also include earlier classics of world cinema to provide historical perspective.

Spring Courses

CSER GU4484 SEC 001

CULTURAL RIGHTS AS HUMAN RIGHTS

Prof. Elsa Stamatopoulou— T 4:10pm-6pm - Location: 420 Hamilton Hall

Cultural rights are included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other human rights instruments. While academic teachings in the human rights field have been focusing on civil and political rights and, increasingly, on economic and social rights, and while cultural studies have been thriving, this has not been the case for cultural human rights. The purpose of the seminar is to fill this gap.

CSER UN3924 Sec 001

LATIN AMERICAN & LATINO/A SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Prof. Stuart Rockefeller – T 10:10am-12:00pm - Location: TBA

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.

AMST GR4001

METHODS IN AMERICAN STUDIES

Matthew Sandler – M 4:10pm - 6:00pm

Conceived in the 1920's and 1930's, American Studies sought to make a synoptic account of the “national character.” Since the 1960's, the field has turned towards a focus on various forms of inequality as the dark side of American exceptionalism. This course surveys the development of the field's current preoccupations, covering a range of periods, regions, groups, and cultural practices that present productive problems for generalizations about U.S. identity. We begin with the first academic movement in American Studies, the myth and symbol school—and think through its growth in the context of post-WWII funding for higher education. We then move on to a series of debates centered at intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality. We'll close by examining the historical background of protest movements built around the identitarian concerns about rape culture and mass incarceration.

Graduate's Corner

Masters Program in American Studies at CSER

The M.A. program in American Studies at the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race offers an opportunity for students to continue their research at Columbia with the freedom to formulate interdisciplinary research projects. Students design their own curriculum from across Columbia's course listings with the help of the program director. At the end of their matriculation, students write a thesis under the advisement of faculty specialists in their area of interest.

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 is designed with three goals in mind: to orient students within American Studies as a field, to deepen their strengths in a related disciplinary practice, and to provide space for them to conceive an interdisciplinary research agenda.

The requirements are as follows:

- CSER 4000: Introduction to American Studies
- CSER 4001: Methods in American Studies
- 3 courses in a discipline traditionally associated with American Studies
- 3 courses centered on an interdisciplinary theme or idea
- CSER 4999: Supervised Individual Research (thesis)

Students complete a thesis project as the capstone of their course of study. Most theses take the form of traditional academic papers, but with the permission and consultation of their advisors, recent students have represented their research in documentary films and graphic comics. Thesis topics by recent graduates include:

--The Muslim Soldier Serving in the U.S. Military After 9/11: Islamophobia, Citizenship, and National Belonging

--Policing in Schools: The Progressive Criminalization of American Youth

--The Commercialization of College Athletics and its Impact on African American Male Basketball Players

--Antimodern Violence and Far Right Extremism in the American South

--The Circle in the Square: Legendary Cyphers, Hip Hop, and Educational Organizing in Union Square Park

If you have any questions, please contact the Program Director, Dr. Matt Sandler, mfs2001@columbia.edu

CSER 2018 in Review

The Best of CSER in 2018

Center for the Study of Ethnicity & Race Presents:
A YEAR IN REVIEW

2018 was a year rife with challenges for many, but it also presented numerous opportunities to learn and to grow as a community. As the new semester approaches, we at CSER would like to take a moment to reflect on the best of our events and developments in the past year.

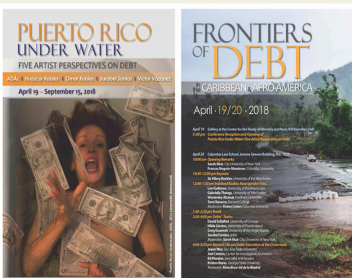
Student & Alumni Spotlights



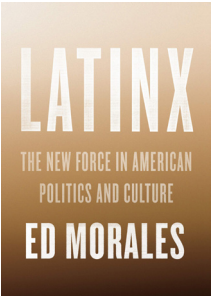
10th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium
On Our Own Terms: Interstices of Research, Writing and Activism



Students hosted the Ivy Native Council at Columbia for the first time on November 2-4, 2018.



Spring Gallery Exhibit and Conference:
[Puerto Rico Under Water: Five Artists' Perspectives on Debt](#)
[Frontiers of Debt in the Caribbean and Afro-America](#)





Shaping the Future of DACA:
Bridging Research & Policy Conference
| February 22, 2018 |

50 Years of Mexico's 1968 Movement:
A Mexico Mondays talk by Director Claudio Lomnitz
| October 1, 2018 |





Jews and Race: Realities and Representations
in Latin American Culture and Society
Research Conference
| May 29-30, 2018 |



Decolonization Series:
The Urgency of Decolonization Panel
| March 27, 2018 |

Decolonization Series:
Decolonizing History: Gender, Region, and
Slavery
| March 29, 2018 |





8th Annual Columbia POWWOW
with the Native American Council
| April 14, 2018 |

International Symposium on Environmental
Violence Against Indigenous Women
| April 14-15, 2018 |






Korematsu v. United States: Japanese Internment
Cases from Incarceration to the Travel Ban
| October 25, 2018 |

Asian Americans & Affirmative Action:
Understanding SFPA v. Harvard
| November 27, 2018 |







INDIGENOUS FORUM:
Militant Fourth Worldism
with Glen Coulthard
| February 1, 2018 |



Seriously Funny: A Roundtable on Women,
Comedy and Politics
| March 20, 2018 |

Columbia University History Tour
Initiative App:
Developed by Professor Karl Jacoby and
Students





Confronting Silences: Columbia University and the
Afterlife of Slavery
| May 3, 2018 |



TRANSNATIONAL ASIAN-AMERICAN SPEAKER SERIES:
Crazy Rich Asians: race, representation, resistance?
| October 23, 2018 |

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