ETHNICITY, RACE, & MIGRATION (ER&M)

ER&M 117a / LING 117a, Language in America
This course examines the linguistic landscape of the USA. Covering Indigenous, immigrant, and colonial languages, with a focus on contemporary issues of language and politics, race and ethnicity, discrimination, and reclamation. Language variation, including varieties of English (regional varieties, African American Language), and ideologies around language use (such as 'English only' movements).

ER&M 127a / EVST 127a / SOCY 127a / WGSS 127a, Health and Illness in Social Context Alka Menon
Present-day medicine and health care provide solutions to an ever-increasing array of human problems. Yet the achievement of health can be elusive. This course provides a broad introduction to the domains of health and illness in the U.S., with some coverage of international trends and topics. Students analyze how our personal health and public health are shaped by social structures, political struggles, expert knowledge, and medical markets. Topics include the cultural and social meanings associated with health and illness; inequalities in health and health care access and provision; controversies surrounding healthcare, medical knowledge production, and medical decision-making; and the social institutions of the health care industry. None

ER&M 200b, Introduction to Ethnicity, Race, and Migration Alicia Schmidt Camacho
Historical roots of contemporary ethnic and racial formations and competing theories of ethnicity, race, and migration. Cultural constructions and social practices of race, ethnicity, and migration in the United States and around the world. HU, SO

ER&M 209b / LITR 279b / VIET 220b, Introduction to Vietnamese Culture, Values, and Literature Quang Van
Introduction to Vietnamese culture and values. Topics include cultural and national identity, aesthetics, the meaning of life, war, and death. Selected readings from Zen poems, folklore, autobiographies, and religious and philosophical writings. Course is taught in English and is an alternative to Western perspectives. Readings in translation. No previous knowledge of Vietnamese required. HU

ER&M 211a / EDST 144a / EVST 144a / SOCY 144a, Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration Grace Kao
Exploration of sociological studies and theoretical and empirical analyses of race, ethnicity, and immigration, with focus on race relations and racial and ethnic differences in outcomes in contemporary U.S. society (post-1960s). Study of the patterns of educational and labor market outcomes, incarceration, and family formation of whites, blacks (African Americans), Hispanics, and Asian Americans in the United States, as well as immigration patterns and how they affect race and ethnic relations.

ER&M 214a / HIST 146a / HLTH 280a / HSHM 212a, Historical Perspectives on Global Health Joanna Radin
In the 21st century “global health” is recognized as an influential framework for orienting action among a huge range of groups including public health workers, activists, philanthropists, economists, political leaders, and students. How did this come to pass? This survey class introduces you to the historical circumstances that have contributed to the contemporary landscape of global health. We travel through several centuries to examine how ideas about disease, colonialism, race, gender, science, diplomacy, security, economy, and humanitarianism have shaped and been shaped by attempts to negotiate problems of health that transcend geopolitical borders.

ER&M 219a / HIST 219a / JDST 200a / MMES 149a / RLST 148a, Jewish History and Thought to Early Modern Times Ivan Marcus
A broad introduction to the history of the Jews from biblical beginnings until the European Reformation and the Ottoman Empire. Focus on the formative period of classical rabbinic Judaism and on the symbiotic relationships among Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Jewish society and culture in its biblical, rabbinic, and medieval settings. Counts toward either European or non-Western distributional credit within the History major, upon application to the director of undergraduate studies.

ER&M 228b / AMST 209b / PLSC 262b, Race, Politics, and the Law Daniel HoSang
Examination of how race—as a mode of domination and resistance—has developed and transformed in the United States since the early-twentieth-century. How political actors and social movements engage the law to shape visions of freedom, democracy, and political life. Consideration of critical race theory, political discourse analysis, intersectionality and women of color feminism, and American political development.

ER&M 228a / HIST 338a, Pirates, Rebels, and Revolutionaries: Caribbean History from 1400–Present Anne Eller
This course examines the entangled, interconnected, and global histories of the greater Caribbean, from moments before European contact through the present day. Topics include the indigenous societies, European colonialism, plantation slavery and emancipation, anti-colonial struggles, revolution, and dictatorships.

ER&M 231a / HIST 232a, Hitler, Stalin, and Us Timothy Snyder
This course presents the study of the Stalinist and Nazi regimes, reviews the mass atrocities of the mid-twentieth century, and considers the legacies of these regimes in contemporary memory and politics.

ER&M 241a / ANTH 140a / SOCY 138a, The Corporation Douglas Rogers
Survey of the rise, diversity, and power of the capitalist corporation in global contexts, with a focus on the 20th and 21st centuries. Topics include: the corporation as legal entity and the social and cultural consequences of this status; corporations in the colonial era; relationships among corporations, states, and non-governmental organizations in Western and non-Western contexts; anti-corporate critique and response; corporate social responsibility; and race, gender, and indigeneity.
An examination of contemporary cultural critics who examine the intersections of aesthetics and politics across visual and literary forms. Our discussions focus on the different formal techniques and practices regarding archive driven scholarly works, public essays, memoirs, and reviews. We discuss different approaches toward interdisciplinary writing and criticism, the public humanities, and engaging scholarly expertise with a broader audience. In preparation for meetings, participants read selections of works from guest scholars and cultural critics. Our hope is to build a discussion about writing across different disciplinary background and domains and engage with how these practices might contribute to our works as scholars, writers, and activists. Workshops with critics are twice a month. 

Introduction to the methods and practice of comparative ethnic studies. Examination of racial formation in the United States within a transnational framework. Legacies of colonialism, slavery, and racial exclusion; racial formation in schools, prisons, and citizenship law; cultural politics of music and performance; social movements; and postcolonial critique.

This junior history seminar explores 20th century Asian American history through the themes of law and justice. Specifically, we examine the ways in which U.S. laws and legal institutions have defined race and belonging for Asian Americans by focusing on three topics: education, housing, and criminal justice. These broad themes allow us to understand historic changes in Asian migration, family and community formation, political organizing, and social justice activism as well as situate Asian American history in the broader context of Civil Rights struggles throughout the 20th century. The course also explores a wide array of primary sources and historical methods used to develop a research project based on Asian American encounters with the U.S. legal system.

Survey of the origins, history, and legacies of federal Indian law and policy during two hundred years of United States history. The fundamental tool for understanding and critiquing identity, diversity, and policy in U.S. education. Exploration of identity politics and theory, as they figure in education policy. Methods for applying theory and interventions to interrogate issues in education. Application of theory and interventions to policy creation and reform.

Investigation of the history and culture of Cuba from the colonial period to the present. Cultural production in the form of film, literature, and music discussed in relation to aesthetics and historical context. The course also engages with the history and culture of Cuban communities in the United States.

An examination of contemporary literature written by Caribbean writers who have migrated to, or who journey between, different countries around the Atlantic rim. Focus on literature written in English in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, both fiction and nonfiction. Writers include Caryl Phillips, Nalo Hopkinson, and Jamaica Kincaid.

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of South Asians in the United States and the shifting understandings of the category “South Asian American.” Taking up the changing and contested meanings of the diaspora allows us to think through questions of identity, race, gender, caste, class, religion, and citizenship. We consider questions such as: how do South Asians reproduce and resist constructions of the model minority? How can we think about the relationship of South Asians in relation to a larger history of Asian American racialization, anti-blackness, and settler colonialism? How do we challenge the constructions of global terror, especially post-9/11? What are hegemonic cultural representations of South Asian Americans across Hollywood and Bollywood? And how can we move beyond these representations to theorize South Asian Americans transnationally? The course explores these questions through historical, ethnographic, cultural, and transnational feminist approaches to Asian American Studies. 

* ER&M 339a / AFAM 348a / AMST 388a / WGSS 332a, James Baldwin 1964-1987: Transnationalism, Exile & Intimacy  
Leah Mirakhhor

The course explores Baldwin’s oeuvre since 1964 until his death in 1987. As critics have noted, there has been a renaissance regarding the work of James Baldwin since 1999, with scholarly publications devoted to his work, public tributes, films, and publications of previously uncollected or out of print works. Critics had hailed Baldwin’s earlier works—Go Tell It on the Mountain, Giovanni’s Room, Notes of a Native Son—as his greatest literary accomplishments. After Baldwin’s most celebrated work—The Fire Next Time—Baldwin appeared on the cover of Time magazine in 1963, under the heading “Birmingham and Beyond: The Negro’s Push for Equality.” In this moment, Baldwin became a celebrated public figure in the U.S. and beyond. Our class investigates the period after this height of celebrity, when critics lambasted him for being too political, too angry, too bitter, and losing narrative control and rigor. This two-decade span is significant because Baldwin was witness to the deaths and incarceration of Civil Rights leaders (whom he mourned as friends), the increased surveillance and incarceration of black activists, the Vietnam war, the emergence of Black Power, feminist movements, and gay and queer liberations. During this time, Baldwin lived primarily in Turkey and France, and continued to travel globally. Baldwin’s essays, novels, speeches, and poetry wrestled with how to formally capture and witness the violations of imperialism, homophobia, and racism. Since his death, Baldwin’s work has continued to influence and inform theoretical insights in American studies, literary studies, Black studies, and queer studies. Our class engages with Baldwin’s formal practices, political contexts, and critical interpretations across these fields. Preference given to students with a background in African American Studies, WGGS, ER&M, and American Studies. Previous readings of James Baldwin’s works recommended but not required. 

* ER&M 349a / AFAM 227a / AMST 227a / HIST 137Ja, From the Voting Rights Act to #blacklivesmatter  
Ferentzi Lafargue

This course explores the period beginning from 1964 through the emergence of the #blacklivesmatter movement in 2013. Key concepts covered in this course include the Black Panther Party and rise of the Black Power movement; political campaigns of Shirley Chisholm, Jesse Jackson, and Barack Obama. The seminar concludes with an examination of the #blacklivesmatter movement and broader efforts addressing mass incarceration, poverty, and opportunity gaps in education. 

* ER&M 353a / AMST 317a / HIST 323Ja, Race, Radicalism, and Migration in Latinx History  
Stephen Pitti

Histories of Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Central American, Dominican, and Cuban American communities in the United States, with a focus on transnational and labor politics, cultural expression, print culture, and social movements. Readings and films locate Latinx experiences alongside African American and Asian American histories, and within broader patterns of U.S. and Latin American history. 

* ER&M 355b / HIST 345Jb, Gender and the State in Latin America and the Caribbean  
Anne Eller

This seminar offers an introduction to historical constructions of gender identity and gendered polities in Latin America and the Caribbean from pre-colonial native societies into the twentieth century. We begin with an analysis of gender in the Inca empire and several lowland societies, focusing on spirituality, agriculture, and land tenure particularly. The arrival of Spanish colonialism brings tremendous and complex transformations to the societies that we consider; we analyze discourses of honor, as well as how various subjects navigated the violence and the transforming colonial state. Our readings turn to Caribbean slavery, where studies of gendered experiences of enslavement and resistance have grown considerably in recent decades. Building on these insights, we analyze the gendered experiences of abolition and inclusion into contentious new Latin American and Caribbean nations of the nineteenth century. In the twentieth century, we consider some of the most salient analyses of the growth of state power, including dictatorships, in multiple sites. Throughout we maintain an eye for principle questions about representation, reproduction, inclusion, political consciousness, sexuality, migration, kinship, and revolutionary struggle through a gendered lens. 

* ER&M 360a / HLTH 370a / HSHM 432a / SOCY 390a / WGSS 390a, Politics of Reproduction  
Rene Almeling

Reproduction as a process that is simultaneously biological and social, involving male and female bodies, family formation, and powerful social institutions such as medicine, law, and the marketplace. Sociological research on reproductive topics such as pregnancy, birth, abortion, contraception, infertility, reproductive technology, and aging. Core sociological concepts used to examine how the politics of reproduction are shaped by the intersecting inequalities of gender, race, class, and sexuality. 

* ER&M 362b, Translation: Theory, Methods, and Practice  
David Francis

This course explores the challenges, theories, and pitfalls of translation, focusing on the ways in which acts of translation cross, create, or redefine (socio-)linguistic, national, cultural, and political borders. Special attention is paid to questions of race, economics, gender, sexuality, nationality, post-nationality, multilingualism, citizenship, exile, and their various intersections at the site of literary translation. As part of their final projects, students select and translate a short literary or visual-literary work or critique and re-translate a previously translated literary and/or visual text. Proficiency in a second language is not required. This course meets the methods requirement for the ER&M major.
* ER&M 363a / AFAM 396a / AMST 324a, Ethnic Studies and the Social Imagination  Maryam Parhizkar
Centering the social function of the imagination and its relation to power and culture, this seminar traces poetic creativity as a mode of engaging the political and intellectual labors of ethnic studies. Students are introduced to the creative strategies that scholars, poets, performers, filmmakers, artists, and activists have used to interrogate histories of race, diaspora and dispossession, build collectivity, and re-envision the future. Emphasis on writing, media and performance from the U.S. in the last decade, with transhistorical and transnational links to writings and histories from the twentieth century including: Third World/women of color feminisms, the Black Radical Tradition and abolitionist thought, Caribbean thought, documentary poetics, and queer of color critique. Students study, practice, and apply methods to their own research projects through in-class discussion and writing exercises, reading responses, and assignments that build toward a final project or paper. Prerequisite: ER&M 200, prior course in AFAM, or permission from the instructor. HU

* ER&M 364b / HIST 334b / LAST 334b, Ethnicity, Nationalism, and the Politics of Knowledge in Latin America  Marcela Echeverri Munoz
Examination of ethnicity and nationalism in Latin America through the political lens of social knowledge. Comparative analysis of the evolution of symbolic, economic, and political perspectives on indigenous peoples, peasants, and people of African descent from the nineteenth century to the present. Consideration of the links between making ethnic categories in the social sciences and in literature and the rise of political mechanisms of participation and representation that have characterized the emergence of cultural politics. WR, HU RP

* ER&M 372a / HSAR 492a, Visual Encounters in the Early Modern Atlantic World  Cecile Fromont
This course examines the visual, material, and human flows that connected Africa, Europe, and the Americas between 1450 and 1850 and gave its contours to the early modern Atlantic World. Readings, class discussions, and assignment will explore the role of the visual in key institutions and phenomena that emerged in the circum-Atlantic and continue cast their long shadow over the contemporary world. Topics include: colonialism, the slave trade, blackness and indigeneity, scientific exploration, religious encounters, revolt. HU

* ER&M 381a / AMST 348a / EVST 304a, Space, Place, and Landscape  Laura Barraclough
Survey of core concepts in cultural geography and spatial theory. Ways in which the organization, use, and representation of physical spaces produce power dynamics related to colonialism, race, gender, class, and migrant status. Multiple meanings of home; the politics of place names; effects of tourism; the aesthetics and politics of map making; spatial strategies of conquest. Includes field projects in New Haven. SO

* ER&M 392b / HIST 131Jb, Urban History in the United States, 1870 to the Present  Jennifer Klein
The history of work, leisure, consumption, and housing in American cities. Topics include immigration, formation and re-formation of ethnic communities, the segregation of cities along the lines of class and race, labor organizing, the impact of federal policy, the growth of suburbs, the War on Poverty and Reaganism, and post-Katrina New Orleans. WR, HU

* ER&M 394a / ANTH 409a / EVST 422a / F&ES 422a / GLBL 394a, Climate and Society from Past to Present  Michael Dove
Discussion of the major currents of thought—both historic and contemporary—regarding climate, climate change, and society; focusing on the politics of knowledge and belief vs disbelief; and drawing on the social sciences and anthropology in particular. WR, SO

* ER&M 401a, Writer/Rioter: Public Writing in the 21st Century  Leah Mirakhor
In his collection Lunch with A Bigot: The Writer in the World, Amitava Kumar asks “What divides the writer from the rioter?” This class is concerned with unpacking the various ways writers participate in the 21st century world as disturbers of the peace. This century has seen great advances in technology, health, alternative energies, new forms of communication, but also vast consolidations of power, mass incarceration, climate change, poverty, homelessness, wars, state surveillance, and sexual violence. Our current historical moment increasingly asks us to craft broader and deeper connections between personal, local, national, and international issues. This course explores cultural criticism on a range of issues that examine the intersections of history, politics, media, and various crises in the 21st century by writers from a variety of backgrounds: journalists, academics, activists, artists, scientists, and politicians. We analyze how these writers use their professional expertise to craft work for the public arena, and what it means to create a history of the present. The course's four sections cover various responses to some of the issues most publicly contested across college campuses nationwide, and here at Yale: racial unrest, sexual assault, climate change, poverty, incarceration, fascism, and gun violence. HU

* ER&M 402b / AMST 479b, The Displaced: Migrant and Refugee Narratives of the 20th and 21st Centuries  Leah Mirakhor
This course examines a series of transnational literary texts and films that illuminate how the displaced—migrants, exiles, and refugees—remake home away from their native countries. The twentieth and twenty-first centuries have produced massive displacements due to wars, genocides, racial, ethnic and religious conflicts, economic and climate change, among other factors. Our course focuses on several texts that explore questions of home, nation, and self in the context of specific historical events such as the Holocaust, civil rights movements in the U.S., internment, the Indian partition, African decolonization, and Middle Eastern/Arab ethno-religious conflicts and wars. We examine these events alongside the shifting legal and political policies and categories related to asylum, humanitarian parole, refugee, and illegal alien status. Exploring themes such as nostalgia, longing, trauma, and memory, we look at the possibilities and limitations of creating, contesting, and imagining home in the diaspora. Our objective is to debate and develop the ethical, political, geographic, and imaginative articulations of home in an era of mass displacements and geo-political crises. We examine how notions of home are imagined alongside and against categories of race, gender, and sexuality. HU
* ER&M 408a / AFAM 412a / AMST 408a, Race and Comedy  Albert Laguna
Introduction to theories of the ludic and to critical race theory. Ways in which comic modes have been utilized by racialized subjects to represent and issue critiques of the dominant culture. Analysis of stand-up comedy, film, television, and novels.  HU

* ER&M 412a, Native American Health  Christopher Cutter
Issues of health policy, research, and service delivery in Native American communities, with a focus on historical antecedents that shape health outcomes and social policy for indigenous communities. Urgent problems in health and wellness, with special attention to Native American mental health. The roles of the Indian Health Service, state and local agencies, and tribal health centers; comparison of Native American and European American conceptions of health and illness.  SO

* ER&M 419a / AFAM 390a / SOCY 319a, Ethnography of the African American Community  Elijah Anderson
An ethnographic study of the African American community. Analysis of ethnographic and historical literature, with attention to substantive, conceptual, and methodological issues. Topics include the significance of slavery, the racial ghetto, structural poverty, the middle class, the color line, racial etiquette, and social identity.  SO

* ER&M 435b / AMST 486b, Asian American Studies of Race, Colonialism, and Empire  Lisa Lowe
This interdisciplinary course examines three periods of Asian American history that are paradigmatic within Asian American Studies of race, colonialism, and empire: 19th century Chinese immigrant labor, the internment of Japanese and Japanese Americans during World War II, and Korean Americans in 1992 Los Angeles. Studying these three examples in their national and global contexts, we consider Chinese immigrant railroad workers in relation to both conditions for emigration from China, and to Native American responses to U.S. settlement and expansion into the western frontier; the dispossession and incarceration of Japanese Americans in relation to wartime racialization of Mexican Americans, Blacks, and the longer history of U.S. war in Asia; and finally, we seek to understand the positioning of Korean Americans as 'middlemen' in post-Civil Rights multiracial Los Angeles in relation to Korean War, and U.S. development and investment in the industrialization of South Korea. We explore how Asian American histories of racialized labor and citizenship in the U.S. are better understood in comparative relation to the histories of other groups, and with consideration of the longer histories of U.S. interventions in Asian countries of origin.  HU

* ER&M 431a, Community Organizing Theory and Practice  Daniel HoSang
This course focuses broadly on the history of social movements, social change efforts and community organizing, both in U.S. and in other countries. The course helps students engage several fundamental questions: What is community organizing and how can we trace its origins and development in the US? What key assumptions lie at the center of this approach to social and political change, and what differences and divisions characterize the field? How does race, class, gender, sexuality, neighborhood and nation shape different organizing traditions? Finally, what role has research and knowledge production played in community organizing history and practice. Across the term, the course pays particular attention to the ways that race, class, gender, sexuality, indigeneity and other forms of difference shape privilege and power. Many of the class sessions incorporate small group activities and other collaborative approaches and activities. Prerequisite: ER&M 200 or equivalent course in critical theories of ethnicity, race and migration.  SO

* ER&M 432a / HIST 363Ja / SAST 334a, Mobile South Asians and the Global Legal Order  Rohit De
South Asians make up the largest population of overseas migrants in the world, close to 33 million in 2017 and a diaspora that is almost double that number. This course looks at the unprecedented mobility of South Asians from the mid-19th century until now as merchants, indentured labor, students, pilgrims, professionals, domestic workers, political exiles, refugees, and economic migrants, through the lens of state attempts to control movement and individual resistance, subversion, and adaptation to such controls. Focusing on the legal consciousness of South Asian migrants and the emergence of South Asian nations as political players on the global stage, this class traces how South Asian mobility led to the forging of a new global order, over migration, multiculturalism, Islamic law, civil liberties, labor law, and international law.  WR, HU

* ER&M 439b / AMST 439b, Fruits of Empire  Gary Okihiro
Readings, discussions, and research on imperialism and 'green gold' and their consequences for the imperial powers and their colonies and neo-colonies. Spatially conceived as a world-system that enmeshes the planet and as earth’s latitudes that divide the temperate from the tropical zones, imperialism as discourse and material relations is this seminar’s focus together with its implantations—an empire of plants. Vast plantations of sugar, cotton, tea, coffee, bananas, and pineapples occupy land cultivated by native and migrant workers, and their fruits move from the tropical to the temperate zones, impoverishing the periphery while profiting the core. Fruits of Empire, thus, implicates power and the social formation of race, gender, sexuality, class, and nation.  HU, SO

* ER&M 440a / AMST 436a, Antiracism, Racial Justice, and Freedom  Daniel HoSang
Examination of competing conceptualizations of anti-racism and racial justice within a range of historical, theoretical, and practical sites. Consideration of how the resurgence of collective and popular mobilizations against racial and colonial domination in the last ten years, witnessed in the struggles against the police and prison violence, immigrant detention and deportation, and indigenous-led campaigns against fossil fuel extraction, raise profound questions about the meaning, politics, and vision of racial justice.  HU

* ER&M 452b / AMST 452b / AMST 628, Movement, Memory, and U.S. Settler Colonialism  Laura Baracludgh
This research seminar examines and theorizes the significance of movement and mobility in the production and contestation of settler colonial nation-states. To do so, it brings together the fields of settler colonial studies, critical indigenous studies, ethnic studies, public history, and mobility studies. After acquainting ourselves with the foundations and some of the key debates within each of these fields, we examine four case studies: The Freedom Trail and the Black Heritage Trail in Boston; the Lewis and Clark expedition and its recuperation as a site of healing and education for tribal nations in the Upper Midwest and Northwest; the Trail of Tears and the contest over southern
memory; and the relationships between settlement, labor migration, and regional racial formation in California. Students then conduct their own research projects that integrate primary source research on a particular organized movement (of people, non-human animals, ideas, practices) with two or more expressions of memory about that movement (in the form of public history installations, popular culture, literature, music, digital memes, etc.). This course is best suited to students who have initial ideas about a potential research topic and are exploring related ideas for their senior essay.

ER&M 470a, Independent Study Staff
For students who wish to pursue a close study in the subjects of ethnicity, race, and/or migration, not otherwise covered by departmental offerings. May be used for research, a special project, or a substantial research paper under faculty supervision. A term paper or its equivalent and regular meetings with the adviser are required. To apply for admission, a student should present a prospectus and a bibliography, signed by the adviser, to the director of undergraduate studies. Enrollment limited.

* ER&M 491a, The Senior Colloquium: Theoretical and Methodological Issues Albert Laguna and Quan Tran
A research seminar intended to move students toward the successful completion of their senior projects, combining discussions of methodological and theoretical issues with discussions of students' fields of research.

* ER&M 492b, The Senior Essay or Project Albert Laguna
Independent research on a one-term senior essay or project.