Ethnicity, Race, and Migration

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The program in Ethnicity, Race, and Migration enables students to engage in an interdisciplinary, comparative study of forces that have created a multicultural, multiethnic, and multiracial world. The major emphasizes familiarity with the intellectual traditions and debates surrounding the concepts of indigeneity, ethnicity, nationality, and race; grounding in both the history of migration and its contemporary manifestations; and knowledge of and direct engagement with the cultures, structures, and peoples formed by these migrations.

Requirements of the Major

The major for the Class of 2020 With approval from the director of undergraduate studies (DUS), the following changes to the requirements of the major may be fulfilled by students who declared their major under previous requirements.

The major for the Class of 2021 and subsequent classes Students must complete twelve term courses in Ethnicity, Race, and Migration, including the senior requirement. These twelve normally include ER&M 200, an introductory course on the issues and disciplines involved in the study of ethnicity, race, and migration. In the junior year, all majors are required to take ER&M 300, a seminar that introduces majors to scholarship in ethnic studies, postcolonial studies, and cultural studies. Students also take two electives; courses with ER&M content taught in related departments, such as Sociology, Political Science, History, and Anthropology require DUS approval.

Area of concentration In consultation with the DUS, each student defines an area of concentration consisting of six term courses, one of which must be a methods course; these concentration courses do not include the senior essay or project. Advanced work in the foreign language related to a student’s area of concentration is advised.

Roadmap See visual roadmap of the requirements.

Senior Requirement

There are two options for the senior requirement. Majors may choose a yearlong senior essay or project and take the senior colloquium (ER&M 491) on theoretical and methodological issues in the fall and then complete the requirement by writing a senior essay in the senior project seminar (ER&M 492) during the spring term. Alternatively, students may take two upper-level ER&M seminars, and in one of the seminars, with the instructor’s approval, write a final paper of 30–35 pages in addition to completing other course requirements. These seminars may be taken during either the fall or spring term.

Advising

Prospective majors should consult the director of undergraduate studies early in their academic careers to discuss an individual plan of study. Enrollment in the major requires permission of the director of undergraduate studies prior to the beginning of the fall term of the junior year.

As a multidisciplinary program, Ethnicity, Race, and Migration draws on the resources of other departments and programs in the University. Students are encouraged to examine the offerings of other departments in both the humanities and the social sciences, interdisciplinary programs of study housed in the MacMillan Center and elsewhere, and residential college seminars for additional relevant courses. The stated area of concentration of each student determines the relevance and acceptability of other courses. Students are also encouraged to engage in community-based learning opportunities.

Study Abroad

Because of the major’s emphasis on international and transnational work, students are encouraged to undertake a term abroad. They should consult with the DUS to identify courses from study abroad programs that may count toward the major.

Requirements of the Major

Prerequisites None

Number of courses 12 term courses (incl senior req)

Specific courses required ER&M 200, 300

Distribution of courses 6 courses in area of concentration, 1 of which must be a methods course; 2 electives with ER&M content and DUS approval

Senior requirement Senior colloq (ER&M 491) and senior essay or project (ER&M 492); or senior essay in upper-level seminar and one additional upper-level seminar

Faculty Associated with the Program of Ethnicity, Race, and Migration

Professors Ned Blackhawk (History, American Studies), Hazel Carby (African American Studies, American Studies), Michael Denning (American Studies, English), Inderpal Grewal (American Studies, Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies), Matthew Jacobson (American Studies, African American Studies, History), Gilbert Joseph (History), Grace Kao (Sociology), Mary Lui (American Studies, History), Stephen Pitti (History, American Studies), Ana Ramos-Zayas (American Studies, Ethnicity, Race, and Migration, Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies), Alicia Schmidt Camacho (Ethnicity, Race, and Migration, American Studies)
Associate Professors Laura Barraclough (American Studies), Zareena Grewal (American Studies), Daniel Martínez HoSang (American Studies, Ethnicity, Race, and Migration), Daniel Magaziner (History)

Assistant Professors Albert Laguna (American Studies, Ethnicity, Race, and Migration), Sunny Xiang (English)

Lecturers Aaron Carico (American Studies, African American Studies), Leah Mirakhor (American Studies, Ethnicity, Race, and Migration), Joanna Radin (History of Science & Medicine, History, Anthropology, American Studies, Ethnicity, Race, and Migration), David Simon (Political Science), Quan Tran (American Studies, Ethnicity, Race, and Migration)

Visiting Lecturer Gary Okihiro

Required Courses

ER&M 200a, Introduction to Ethnicity, Race, and Migration Alicia 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 300a or b, Comparative Ethnic Studies Staff
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. SO

Electives within the Major

AFAM 162b / AMST 162b / HIST 187b, African American History from Emancipation to the Present Lauren Meyer
An examination of the African American experience since 1861. Meanings of freedom and citizenship are distilled through appraisal of race and class formations, the processes and effects of cultural consumption, and the grand narrative of the civil rights movement. WR, HU

* AFAM 349b / AMST 326b / HIST 115jb / WGSS 388b, Civil Rights and Women's Liberation Lauren Meyer
The dynamic relationship between the civil rights movement and the women's liberation movement from 1940 to the present. When and how the two movements overlapped, intersected, and diverged. The variety of ways in which African Americans and women campaigned for equal rights. Topics include World War II, freedom summer, black power, the Equal Rights Amendment, feminism, abortion, affirmative action, and gay rights. HU

* AFAM 410b / AMST 310b / WGSS 410b, Interdisciplinary Approaches to African American Studies Crystal Feimster
An interdisciplinary, thematic approach to the study of race, nation, and ethnicity in the African diaspora. Topics include class, gender, color, and sexuality; the dynamics of reform, Pan-Africanism, neocolonialism, and contemporary black nationalism. Use of a broad range of methodologies. WR, HU, SO

* AMST 405b / AFAM 406b, Autobiography in America Robert Stepto
A study of autobiographical writings from Mary Rowlandson’s Indian captivity narrative (1682) to the present. Classic forms such as immigrant, education, and cause narratives; prevailing autobiographical strategies involving place, work, and photographs. Authors include Franklin, Douglass, Jacobs, Antin, Kingston, Uchida, Balakian, Rodriguez, and Bechdel. Formerly ENGL 405. WR, HU

* AMST 410a / HIST 166Ja / WGSS 409a, Asian American Women and Gender, 1830 to the Present Mary Lui
Asian American women as key historical actors. Gender analysis is used to reexamine themes in Asian American history: immigration, labor, community, cultural representations, political organizing, sexuality, and marriage and family life. WR, HU

* ANTH 366a / AMST 435a, Inequality in America Kathryn Dudley
Sociocultural dimensions of social inequality in the contemporary United States. Ways in which the socioeconomic processes that produce inequality are inextricably embedded in worlds of cultural meaning; how those meanings are constructed and embodied in everyday practice. Perspectives from anthropology, sociology, economics, history, and popular media. SO

ER&M 206a / PLSC 437a / SOCY 223a, The Politics of Ethnic and National Identity Maria Jose Hierro
Introduction to the study of ethnic and national identity, their determinants and consequences in comparative perspective. SO

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. SO

* ER&M 221b / AMST 206b / WGSS 222b, Introduction to Critical Refugee Studies Quan Tran
Reconfiguring refugees as fluid subjects and sites of social, political, and cultural critiques. Departing from dominant understandings of refugees as victims, consideration instead of refugees as complex historical actors, made visible through processes of colonization, imperialism, war, displacement, state violence, and globalization, as well as ethical, social, legal, and political transformations. Focus on second-half of the twentieth century. SO
ER&M 223a / AMST 209a / PLSC 262a, 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 238a / AFAM 192a / AFST 238a / AMST 238a, Third World Studies  Gary Okihiro
Introduction to the historical and contemporary theories and articulations of Third World studies (comparative ethnic studies) as an academic field and practice. Consideration of subject matters; methodologies and theories; literatures; and practitioners and institutional arrangements.  
* ER&M 320a / AMST 335a, Indigenous Geographies  Laura Barraclough
This seminar examines the spatiality of indigenous communities, both on their own terms and in relationship to ongoing processes of settler colonialism. Focusing primarily on indigenous geographies and place-making practices in the settler United States, it explores the survivance and creativity of Native peoples in the face of persistent spatial violence. While rooted in the intellectual traditions of critical indigenous studies, we also engage scholarship from history, geography, architecture and planning, anthropology, sociology, and education. Topics include: land-based ways of knowing, relations of care, and identity/community formation; treaties, relocation, and reservation-making; ideologies and practices of property; urbanization, urban indigenous communities, and urban activism; cartography and Geographic Information Systems (GIS); movement and mobility; environmental justice hazards and activism; public memory, monuments, and place-names; the significance of borders (both national and local), especially in relationship to violence; and place-based efforts toward co-existence and solidarity in a more-than-human world. No formal prerequisites; prior coursework in Native American history or studies is helpful, but not required.  
ER&M 325b / AFST 335b / HIST 335b, A History of South Africa  Daniel Magaziner
An introduction to the history of southern Africa, especially South Africa. Indigenous communities; early colonial contact; the legacies of colonial rule; postcolonial mismanagement; the vagaries of the environment; the mineral revolution; segregationist regimes; persistent inequality and crime since the end of apartheid; the specter of AIDS; postcolonial challenges in Zimbabwe, Angola, and Mozambique.  
* ER&M 342a / HIST 372a, Revolutionary Change and Cold War in Latin America  Gilbert Joseph
Analysis of revolutionary movements in Latin America against the backdrop of the Cold War. Critical examination of popular images and orthodox interpretations. An interdisciplinary study of the process of revolutionary change and cold war at the grassroots level.  
* ER&M 349a / AFAM 227a / AMST 227a / HIST 137a, From the Voting Rights Act to #blacklivesmatter  Staff
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 370a / AMST 441a / HIST 130a, Indians and the Spanish Borderlands  Ned Blackhawk
The experiences of Native Americans during centuries of relations with North America’s first imperial power, Spain. The history and long-term legacies of Spanish colonialism from Florida to California.  
* ER&M 376b / MGRK 304b / PLSC 376b / SOCY 307b, Extreme and Radical Right Movements  Paris Aslanidis
Extreme and radical right movements and political parties are a recurrent phenomenon found in most parts of the world. Discussion of their foundational values and the causes of their continuous, even increasing, support among citizens and voters.  
* ER&M 380a / AFAM 373a / AMST 355a, White America  Aaron Carico
Critical exploration of how the whiteness of the United States and its institutions has been developed and maintained from the nineteenth century into the present. Special attention paid to the intersection of race and class, particularly to the position of poor whites. Examination of the politics and culture of American whiteness, texts include histories, literary essays, fiction, and films.  
* ER&M 395a / ANTH 382a / EVST 345a / F&ES 384a, Environmental Anthropology  Michael Dove
The history and contemporary study of anthropology and the environment, with special attention to current debates regarding human environmental relations. Topics include: nature-culture dichotomy; ecology and social organization; methodological debates; politics of the environment; and knowing the environment.  
* ER&M 407a / AFAM 399a / AMST 341a, Race and Capitalism  Aaron Carico
This interdisciplinary seminar explores, both theoretically and historically, how racial formations are bound to the formations of capitalism. Focus on the American scene, with sustained inquiry on slavery, its commodity logics, and their residues. Consideration of the effects of immigration and globalization.  
* ER&M 409a / AMST 345a / WGSS 408a, Latinx Ethnography  Ana Ramos-Zayas
Consideration of ethnography within the genealogy and intellectual traditions of Latinx Studies. Topics include: questions of knowledge production and epistemological traditions in Latin America and U.S. Latino communities; conceptions of migration, transnationalism, and space; perspectives on “(il)legality” and criminalization; labor, wealth, and class identities; contextual understandings of gender and
sexuality; theorizations of affect and intimate lives; and the politics of race and inequality under white liberalism and conservatism in the United States.  

* ER&M 416b / GMAN 411b / HUMS 342b / JDST 327b / LITR 406b, World Literature  Hannan Hever  
The concept of world literature, from its origins in eighteenth-century cosmopolitanism represented by Herder and Goethe up to contemporary critical debates (Apter, Casanova, Cheah, Damrosch, Dharmadhker, I. Hesse, Moretti, Mufti, Pollock, Said, Spivak). World literature in relation to national literature, German-language, and Jewish literature; translation, untranslatability, the effect of markets, diaspora, politics. Literary critical readings supplemented by exemplary literary texts in multiple genres. Student contributions based on individual linguistic backgrounds.  

* 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.  

* ER&M 425a / AMST 486a, 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.  

* ER&M 435b / AMST 422b / HIST 151Jb, Writing Tribal Histories  
Ned Blackhawk  
Historical overview of American Indian tribal communities, particularly since the creation of the United States. Challenges of working with oral histories, government documents, and missionary records.  

* ER&M 437a / THST 437a, Performance behind Bars: Sacred Music, Sacred Texts, and Social Justice  Ronald Jenkins  
Through the study of theatrical works that have been adapted from sacred texts, the course introduces students to playwriting techniques helpful for writing their own scripts based on a socially conscious reading of sacred texts. Possible collaboration with incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals in adapting Dante’s Divine Comedy for the stage.  

* ER&M 439a / AMST 439a, 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.  

* ER&M 462a / AMST 462a / WGSS 463a, The Study of Privilege in the Americas  Ana Ramos-Zayas  
Examination of inequality, not only through experiences of the poor and marginal, but also through institutions, beliefs, social norms, and everyday practices of the privileged. Topics include: critical examination of key concepts like “studying up,” “elite,” and “privilege,” as well as variations in forms of capital; institutional sites of privilege (elite prep schools, Wall Street); living spaces and social networks (gated communities, private clubs); privilege in intersectional contexts (privilege and race, class, and gender); and everyday practices of intimacy and affect that characterize, solidify, and promote privilege.  

HIST 119b / AFAM 172b, The Civil War and Reconstruction Era, 1845–1877  
David Blight  
The causes, course, and consequences of the American Civil War. A search for the multiple meanings of a transformative event, including national, sectional, racial, constitutional, social, gender, intellectual, and individual dimensions.  

HIST 264b / RSEE 268b, Eastern Europe since 1914  
Timothy Snyder  
Eastern Europe from the collapse of the old imperial order to the enlargement of the European Union. Main themes include world war, nationalism, fascism, and communism. Special attention to the structural weaknesses of interwar nation-states and postwar communist regimes. Nazi and Soviet occupation as an age of extremes. The collapse of communism. Communism after 1989 and the dissolution of Yugoslavia in the 1990s as parallel European trajectories.  

HIST 305b, Japan’s Modern Revolution  Daniel Botsman  
A survey of Japan’s transformation over the course of the nineteenth century from an isolated, traditional society on the edge of northeast Asia to a modern imperial power. Aspects of political, social, and cultural history.
HIST 332a / AFST 333a, African Encounters with Colonialism  Daniel Magaziner
How African societies and peoples encountered, engaged, and endured the colonial and postcolonial world, from the arrival of Kiswahili-speaking traders at the shores of Lake Victoria in the 1840s through the rise and fall of European colonialism and the resulting forms of neocolonialism. Transformations and continuities in African religious life; gendered sociability; popular culture.  HU

HIST 335b / AFST 335b / ER&M 325b, A History of South Africa  Daniel Magaziner
An introduction to the history of southern Africa, especially South Africa. Indigenous communities; early colonial contact; the legacies of colonial rule; postcolonial mismanagement; the vagaries of the environment; the mineral revolution; segregationist regimes; persistent inequality and crime since the end of apartheid; the specter of AIDS; postcolonial challenges in Zimbabwe, Angola, and Mozambique.  HU

* HIST 388Ja, Slavery and the Slave Trade in Africa  Robert Harms
The slave trade from the African perspective. Analysis of why slavery developed in Africa and how it operated. The long-term social, political, and economic effects of the Atlantic slave trade.  WR, HU

* PLSC 225a, Ideas of Representation in American Political Development  Staff
This course explores ideas of representation in American political history and our contemporary politics. Topics are divided into six categories: the Founding and the Constitution, Congress and the Presidency, the national interest, partisan mobilization, identity, and contemporary challenges.  SO

* PLSC 368a / PLSC 729, Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism  Aysen Candas
The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the political science literature on two political regime types called authoritarianism and totalitarianism. These regime types are most frequently studied with reference to their systematized negation of liberalism, freedoms, equality, and democracy. This background on literature is followed with readings on the current regimes in Turkey, Russia, Hungary, and Poland to determine the similarities and differences of these new regimes from their forerunners in history and ends with reflections on the new “populisms.”  SO

* PORT 394a / LAST 394a / LITR 294a, World Cities and Narratives  K. David Jackson
Study of world cities and selected narratives that describe, belong to, or represent them. Topics range from the rise of the urban novel in European capitals to the postcolonial fictional worlds of major Portuguese, Brazilian, and Spanish American cities. Conducted in English.  WR, HU  TR

* SOCY 314a, The Social Meaning of Money  Rourke O’Brien
This course provides an introduction to the sociological analysis of economic behavior. We begin by introducing various theoretical models for understanding economic behavior, from homo economicus to the socially embedded actor. The course then turns to consider sociological perspectives on different aspects of economic life including transactions, credit, consumption, compensation, household work and intimate economies.  SO

* SOCY 319a / AFAM 390a / ER&M 419a, 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

* THST 335a / AFST 435a, West African Dance: Traditional to Contemporary  Lacina Coulibaly
A practical and theoretical study of the traditional dances of Africa, focusing on those of Burkina Faso and their contemporary manifestations. Emphasis on rhythm, kinesesthetic form, and gestural expression. The fusion of modern European dance and traditional African dance. Admission by audition during the first class meeting.  HU  RP

WGSS 405a / EALL 211a / EAST 241a / LITR 174a, Women and Literature in Traditional China  Kang-i Sun Chang
A study of major women writers in traditional China, as well as representations of women by male authors. The power of women’s writing; women and material culture; women in exile; courtesans; Taoist and Buddhist nuns; widow poets; cross-dressing women; the female body and its metaphors; footbinding; notions of love and death; the aesthetics of illness; women and revolution; poetry clubs; the function of memory in women’s literature; problems of gender and genre. All readings in translation; no knowledge of Chinese required. Some Chinese texts provided for students who read Chinese. Formerly CHNS 201.  HU  TR

Individual Research and Senior Essay Courses

* ER&M 491a, The Senior Colloquium: Theoretical and Methodological Issues  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  Ana Ramos-Zayas
Independent research on a one-term senior essay or project.