Spring 2019 Course Descriptions
Department of Interdisciplinary, Gender, and Ethnic Studies

**This is a partial list of courses. For a full schedule please see MyUNLV**

African American and African Diaspora Studies

AAS 101 African American Survey
Multiple sections and instructors

AAS 330 From Civil Rights to Black Power and Beyond
Prof. Kendra Gage
MW 10:00-11:15 am
From Civil Rights to Black Power and Beyond is a course based in the interdisciplinary study of African American Studies beginning with the civil rights era and continuing to the present day. This course fulfills one of the Multicultural and Social Science requirements. The course will focus on the transition from civil rights to the emergence of the black power revolution, the birth of hip hop, the continued push for inclusion in the areas of education, employment and in the political arena, all the way to the present with the current and continuing struggles for black equity and protection highlighted by the Black Lives Matter Movement. This course will pay special attention to how the larger African American freedom movement has both intersected and influenced past and current debates about gender, labor, sexuality, and politics of hierarchy.

AAS 264 African American Psychology
Prof. Patricia Heisser-Metoyer
TR 8:30-9:45 am
This class will focus on psychological issues in the context of the African American community such as African worldviews, social constructivism, Afrocentric and Africentric psychology, stages of Black identity development, the impact of racism on Black psychology, and African Americans in the psychology profession. The course is writing and speaking intensive. Additionally, the class will include a historical overview of the development of Black Psychology and the African American “frame of reference,” covering topics such as family, psychological assessment, mental health, male/female relationships, personality, and community development, as well as educational, ethical, and contemporary issues. Critical examination of psycho-cultural forces which have helped to shape and determine the unique thought, styles, behavior of African-Americans and to gain a greater appreciation of the theories, research, writings, and activities of Black Psychologists.

AAS 228 African American Film Studies
Prof. Tarryn McGhie
Tues 4:00-6:45 pm
This course explores the progression of film from the 70's Blaxploitation era to today. The course especially examines the role of media/film in shaping societies ideas of race, class, gender, etc. and how it influences bias and stereotypes. The course also examines the many aspects of thinking about film, as well as how to write about film.

AAS 375 Black Pop Cultural Studies
Prof. Valerie Taylor
Wed 4:00-6:45 pm

THTR 428 Black Drama and Performance
Prof. Clarence Gilyard
TR 4:00-5:15 pm
AAS 440 Mayweather, Money, and Masculinity
Prof. Javon Johnson
Thurs. 2:30-5:15 pm
Traditional critiques of masculine performativity vituperate the hyper-masculine, figuring it as little more than a villain gender that must be rooted out. Employing close readings of the infamous boxing icon Floyd “Money” Mayweather, this course critically examines Black masculinity, as well sports/celebrity culture, meme culture, and capitalism to explore how popular critiques of Mayweather are often masked racist attacks that are less about what constitutes “good” masculinity and decent human and instead speak to how who can and should be the subject/object of critique is decided in racist, sexist, and classist terms. Not disputing the larger criticisms of hyper-masculinity wholesale, we will focus less on repairing the hyper-masculine – that is, finding more usable and/or controllable masculinities – to understand how racialized gender understandings might, at times, view it as a viable option. Examining the criticisms of Mayweather, with his well-documented partner abuse, homophobia, and grotesque capitalist consumption, in a larger political-historical context, this course looks at how he can still be seen and understood, at least in some ways, as a role model for so many. In this way, this course is less concerned with normalizing Mayweather’s problematic behavior, so much as it is concerned with finding a human face for the large number of black people who use figures like Mayweather as a model to engage in “a politics of disrespectability,” or a tactical countering of a strict, unfair, and near impossible Victorian ethos imposed on black performativity.

Note: will also count as an upper-division elective for Gender & Sexuality Studies majors/minors

AAS 492/ENG 495B The Octavia Butler Mixtape: An African American Timeline in Sci-Fi
Prof. Briana Whiteside
MW 2:30-3:45 pm
It has been argued that African Americans don’t read science fiction because the genre is either whitewashed or aliens don’t sit well in the Black imagination. But, what if African Americans have lived a very real science fiction nightmare on American soil? What do we learn when Black people are centered in narratives and the stories are bent towards their social and political issues? What happens when African Americans have superpowers that are used to make them superhuman and therefore superior? What if you were snatched back into the antebellum South? Would you be interested? These underlying ideas and more are explored in the work of Octavia Butler. Positioning Butler within studies of Afrofuturism, we will explore how thinking through African American history in a future context provides us new tools to help understand the African American experience in a more imaginative way.
American Indian and Indigenous Studies

AIIS 100 Introduction to American Indian Studies
Prof. Fawn Douglas
Online

AIIS 260/HIST 260 Introduction to Native American History
Prof. Neil Dodge
TR 8:30-9:45 am or TR 10:00-11:15 am
This course is an introduction to Native American history from creation through contact with Europe, Africa, and Asia until the present. We will focus upon the political, cultural, social, and economic histories of the Indigenous groups who live in the territory that we currently call the United States of America. We will come to appreciate the ways in which Native American history is not separate from US history, but actually an important component of US history.

ANTH 400C/AIIS 400C Native Americans of the Southwest
Prof. Karen Harry
Online
This course explores the changing lifeways of the indigenous peoples of the American Southwest. Ethnographic and modern accounts, as well as firsthand accounts written by Southwestern Native Americans, will be presented through reading assignments, class lectures, videos, movies, and classroom discussions. We will examine the many different tribes that make the Southwest their home, from the settled farming communities of the Colorado Plateau and Colorado River, to the (until recently) more nomadic tribes, such as the Paiute, Apache, and Navajo. Particular emphasis will be placed on understanding how the modern-day experiences of these people have been affected by each tribe’s particular history, social organization, and belief systems/world views.

ENG 494A/AIIS 494A Native American Literature
Prof. Steven Sexton
MW 10-11:15 am
An important way in which we understand the world and imagine who we are as individuals, as communities, and as a people is through the stories we tell. Through their novels, poetry, and short fiction, we will examine how Indigenous people express self-imagining, the act of imagining oneself, through their literatures. We will also look at how Indigenous people confront issues brought by settler colonialism that include identity, history, and politics.
Asian and Asian American Studies

**AIS 101 Introduction to Asian Studies**
Multiple sections and instructors

**AIS 102 Introduction to Asian American Studies**
Prof. Constancio Arnaldo
TR 10:00-11:15 am
Introduction to Asian American Studies is a course that provides students with an interdisciplinary overview of scholarly research, histories, contemporary experiences, and political stakes relevant to the interdisciplinary field of Asian American Studies. Placed in a transnational framework, this course examines Asian/Asian America across different Asian diasporic places, spaces, and borders. We examine how transnational, local, and global processes shape and inform Asian/Asian Americans’ cultural, socioeconomic, and political experiences. We will also explore how meanings of “Asian America(n)” have shifted during different historical moments by interrogating how race is continuously created, recreated, and negotiated. The course also examines how Asian Americans experience race as it intersects with class, gender, sexuality, immigration, and citizenship.

**PHIL 124/AIS 124 Philosophical Traditions of Asia**
Prof. Shuktika Chatterjee
Online
This course examines both the historical development and current content of the religious and philosophical traditions of Asia, with special emphasis on China, Korea, India and Japan. While the primary focus will be to understand the philosophical concepts in the Asian traditions, for all of the periods and the material covered, we will also pay special attention to the ways in which the concepts and ways of understanding are alive in the culture today. References will also be made to the Western philosophical traditions and ideas to which the Asian traditions responded, in order to contextualize better the significance of “modernization” and “westernization” which affected Asia over the past centuries.

**AIS 301 Selected Topics in Asian Studies: Asian Americans in Sin City**
Prof. Mark Padoongpatt
TR 1:00-2:15 pm
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have transformed the sights, sounds, and smells of metropolitan areas across the United States, especially in suburbs. This course explores the lives, cultures, and histories of Asian Americans in Las Vegas serves as a principal setting for Asian America today. Students will be mainly participating in a new podcast on Asian Americans in Vegas—“Neon Pacific”—where they will conduct community engaged research to help tell unique stories about the Asian American experience through topics such as food culture, immigration, fashion, politics, music, sports, and video games. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, the course equips students with a working knowledge of a variety of methods and theories from disciplines in the humanities and social sciences to excavate and highlight how Asian Americans build lives in, breathe life into, and remake Sin City.

**ANTH 306/AIS 306 Contemporary Chinese Society**
Prof. William Jankowiak
Online
Objective of the course: To introduce the subject of contemporary China, to explore key concepts, to examine anthropological and historical field work, and to give an overview of the range of cultural diversity and uniformity that has come to characterized Chinese society.
HIST 449C/649C/AIS 449C Topics in Japanese History: Kyoto and Tokyo
Prof. Ed Weir
According to a 2018 poll, Tokyo and Kyoto were chosen as the world’s top two favorite destination cities by travelers. This semester we will explore these fascinating cities through the perspectives of history, culture, and literature. Part one of the course follows the development of Kyoto, the “capital of a thousand years,” from its founding in the eighth century through its cultural and political dominance in the Classical Age and beyond. In the second part of the course we will analyze the premodern foundations of Edo (present day Tokyo) as the capital of the Tokugawa shoguns into a modern city destroyed twice in the twentieth century, first by earthquake and then by war. We will then examine the Tokyo of today, the world’s largest megacity encompassing both the solemn traditions of the Imperial Palace and the seemingly frenetic world of “train pushers” and the ubiquitous culture of kawaii.

HIST 455C/AIS 455C Topics in Modern China: China, Southeast Asia, & the Pacific in World War II
Prof. Teddy Uldricks
Tues 2:30-3:45 + online (hybrid course)
This course examines the Second World War in China, Southeast Asia and the Pacific. We will explore the military, diplomatic, domestic political, economic and social dimensions of the conflict as well as its effect on the future of the region. This is a hybrid class which meets in the classroom on Tuesdays and meets on-line Thursday.

ENG 485A/685A/AIS 485A Asian Literature
Prof. Felicia Campbell
Wed 4:00-6:45 pm
This semester we examine selected contemporary fiction from China, Japan and South Asia as well as a film or film clip from each of the regions studied to provide visual context for the readings. We will move from the Asian Diaspora into North America to post bomb Japan and the bizarre world of Haruki Murakami, from China under Mao to the slums of India. Students projects will provide further context.

ART 480 Arts of China: Survey of Chinese Art from Neolithic to Modern Times
Prof. Louisa McDonald
MW 4:00-5:15 pm
The art of China is the oldest continuous history of art in the world. Through centuries, even millennia, Chinese artists have reflected the unique sense of Chinese beauty in painting, poetry, calligraphy, and the decorative arts. There was true self-expression in Chinese art long before such ideas dawned in the West. This course will focus on the great monuments and accomplishments of Chinese art over time.

Note: Instructor (louisa.mcdonald@unlv.edu) will waive prerequisite for any interested students
Gender and Sexuality Studies

WMST 101 Introduction to Women’s Studies
Multiple sections and instructors

WMST 113 Gender, Race, and Class
Multiple sections and instructors

WMST 301 Feminist Theory
Prof. Anita Revilla
Mon 2:30-5:15 pm

WMST 411D/PSC 411D Constitutional Rights of Women
Prof. Michael Bowers
TR 10:00-11:15 am
Case approach to legal issues concerning abortion, contraception, sterilization, penalties on pregnancy, voting, access to professions, equal pay, and various forms of political, economic, and social discrimination.

THTR 424/WMST 424 Gay Plays
Prof. Douglas Hill
Fri 8:30-11:15 am
A survey of significant dramatic literature featuring characters, themes and issues that had an impact on the LGBTQIA+ community and the mainstream theatre community in the last 100 years. (Reading materials contain adult language and situations that some may find offensive.)

THTR 426 Women Playwrights
Prof. Ann Pereth
MW 11:30-12:45 pm

WMST 427B/ENG 427B Gender & Literature: Queer Literature & Theory
Prof. Anne Stevens
TR 4:00-5:15 pm
This course will explore the history of sexuality through the study of literary, theoretical, and cinematic works. Primary texts will include E. M. Forster's Maurice, James Baldwin's Giovanni's Room, Patricia Highsmith's The Price of Salt, Danez Smith's Don't Call Us Dead, Jeanette Winterson’s The Daylight Gate, and Maggie Nelson's The Argonauts alongside the films Carol and Moonlight. Theorists studied will include Michel Foucault, Eve Sedgwick, Judith Butler, Gloria Anzaldua, Adrienne Rich, Jack Halberstam, and Audre Lorde.

HIST/WMST 432B/632B History of U.S. Women 1880-present
Prof. Joanne Goodwin
Online
This course surveys the experiences of women in the United States from Reconstruction through the twentieth century. Using an intersectional lens, we will explore the diversity of women’s lives over time in public and private life. Special attention will be given to the expansion of women’s rights; their involvement in public life; differences between groups of women; and changes in society's views of women, sexuality, and family life. REQUIRED READING: Linda Kerber, Jane Sherron De Hart, Cornelia Dayton, eds. Women's America, Refocusing the Past; Vicki Ruiz, From Out of the Shadows: A History of Mexican American Women in the United States; Miriam Cohen, Julia Lathrop, Social Service and Progressive Government; Joanne Goodwin, Changing the Game: Women at Work in Las Vegas, 1940-1990; Nancy MacLean, The American Women’s Movement, 1945-2000.
SOC 449/WMST 449 Sex and Social Arrangements  
Prof. Cheryl Radeloff  
Mon 5:30-8:15 pm

SOC 453/WMST 453 Gender and Society  
Prof. Christopher Wakefield  
Tues 4:00-6:45 pm
Examines the social construction of gender across a range of institutional, interactional, intellectual and cultural contexts. Emphasis is on the intersection of gender with race, ethnicity, social class and sexuality.

WMST 472/672 Sex, Gender, and Censorship in American Culture  
Prof. Lynn Comella  
Tues 2:30-5:15 pm
This course examines the history of censorship and obscenity in the United States, from Anthony Comstock’s crusade against birth control in the nineteenth century to the feminist anti-pornography campaigns of the 1980s. We will examine banned books, “obscene” art, key legal decisions, and clashes over free speech and expression. We will pay particularly close attention to the ways in which gender, race, class and sexuality interact with and shape ideas about public morality and how these ideas have changed over time. Prerequisites: WMST 101 or 113, or permission from the instructor.

WMST 481 Mothers and Daughters in the U.S.  
Prof. Erika Abad  
Online
Women’s roles have changed greatly over time. Various factors shape how women perceive themselves and, often enough, it is the relationship one has with her mother that influences said perception. Their reasons are what we will begin to discuss in this course, considering the following questions: what role does testimony, personal narrative play with border crossers or bridge builders? What symbols and tropes do women use, between generations, to explain their struggles? How do these individual self- and relational perceptions and narratives connect to larger regional, national and transnational issues women face?

WMST 490/690 Hashtags, Fandom, and Social Movements: The Evolution of Visibility across Print and Social Media  
Prof. Erika Abad  
MW 11:30-12:45 pm
Twentieth and twenty-first social movements have started in different formats and through different mediums. This course will examine the transition between zine culture and social media based movements, centering on the question of how marginalized communities seek to address limited representation in a myriad of ways. Guided by critical race feminist principles, this course will examine the potential of professionalization through such practices, by preparing to participate in a locally based international convention that seeks to promote LGBT positive representation in media. ClexaCon, a lesbian and bisexual women representation in the media convention, was born out of a social-media-based movement, in response to the statistical evidence that sexual minority characters die on screen more than others. Students will look at the historic and continued ways positive representation is promoted across mediums. Students will then be expected to participate in ClexaCon, learning about what it takes to build a movement for representation and sustain the community it builds. In the process, students will volunteer for the convention and connect their participation to the topics of the course. Students will be able to choose the ways in which they want to participate based on professional ambitions, and personal motivations. In the end, students will be expected to produce a project or intervention regarding the question of sexual and gender minority representation in media based on their preferred skillset and long term professional/political goals.
WMST 497 Feminist Praxis
Prof. Danielle Roth-Johnson
TR 8:30-9:45 am

FIS 497 Queer Cinema
Prof. Heather Addison
Fri 1:30-5:15 pm
Latinx and Latin American Studies

LAS 100 Introduction to Latino/a Studies
Prof. David Barragan
Online

LAS 101 Introduction to Latin American Studies
Prof. Sondra Cosgrove
MW 8:30-9:45 am

HIST 227/LAS 227 Colonial Latin America
Prof. Miriam Melton-Villanueva
MW 1:00-2:15 pm
Explore the history the Americas from its earliest civilizations to emerging national periods:

1. Students will identify different colonial perspectives while discovering the impact of colonial rule on food, language, gender roles, and culture.
2. Students will engage the historian's craft through projects and discussions about field work, archival research, primary source analysis, transcription, and paleography.
3. Students will evaluate conclusions and identify problems within historical narratives, articulating questions that generate an inclusion of underrepresented points of view.
4. Students will learn advanced research methods and analyze notarial documents in order to interpret and write history based on regular people's experiences.
5. Students will develop professional communication skills by preparing and delivering oral presentations.
6. Students will collaborate in groups to share information, solve problems, and complete assignments.
7. By course's end, students will distinguish cultural traditions, and identify indigenous patterns within the African, European, and Asian legacies alive in our culture today.

HIST 302 Creating Public Memorials for Oct. 1
Prof. Miriam Melton-Villanueva
MW 11:30-12:45 pm
In “Creating Public Memorials for Oct.1” students will craft local history by designing memorials for the second anniversary of the October 1 Las Vegas shooting. In collaboration with our Las Vegas Healing Garden and Get Outdoors Nevada community partners, students will create public art aimed at building community through film, poetry, dance, and Mexican ofrenda projects for UNLV’s public spaces and wider publications. Together we will explore the way individuals and communities remember their pasts through entities such as archives, exhibits, memorials, and oral histories in order to plan meaningful events for October 1, 2019.

SPAN 350 Topics in Hispanic Literature: Mexican Women Authors
Prof. Alicia Rico
TR 1:00-2:15 pm
Leeremos una variedad de textos de autoras diferentes centrándonos en el siglo XX, aunque empezaremos con Sor Juana. El propósito es presentar la variedad y riqueza de la literatura producida por autoras mexicanas, así como la evolución en temas y forma de la misma. Los textos serán representativos de los temas que preocupan a las mujeres en diferentes épocas y proporcionarán una idea de cómo se relacionan con dichos temas y situaciones.
SPAN 425/LAS 425 Topics in Hispanic Culture: Voices of the Hispanic World
Prof. Vanesa Canete Jurado
TR 11:30-12:45 pm
This course will explore the rich culture and history of different Hispanic nations through a collection of testimonies and memoirs by notable individuals of our time, e.g. Rigoberta Menchú, Gloria Anzaldúa, Che Guevara, and Sonia Sotomayor. Such first-person accounts will represent a wide variety of personal experiences of self-development, cross-cultural contact, achievement, and displacement. We will explore these self-representations in their wider cultural, social, and political contexts in an attempt to understand the complexities, challenges, and richness of the Hispanic world.

SOC 472/LAS 472 Latinos/as in America
Prof. Cassandra Rodriguez
Tues 4:00-6:45 pm
This course is an introduction to the sociological understanding of Latinx communities across the United States with special emphasis on Latinx communities in the American southwest. As sociologists-in-training, we will collectively question our taken for granted assumptions about Latinidad and Latinx communities. We will do this by first exploring how identity terms (such as “Latino”, “Latinx”, or “Hispanic”) are constructed categories produced by the state, the media, and activists. We will then move to consider how Latinxs fit in the U.S. racial hierarchy. As we move into our topical units, we will explore how Latinxs make sense of their identities, and how Latinx communities are impacted by immigration, work, and the media.
Critical Ethnic Studies

ANTH 216 Cultures Through Film
Prof. Alyssa Crittenden
Wed. 2:30-5:15 pm
This course is an introduction to visual anthropology using ethnographic films to explore the ways in which culture is portrayed using visual media. In this course, students will learn the history of ethnographic films in Anthropology, discuss the ability of the medium of film to represent "reality", explore how film influences cultural processes, and situate ethnographic films in the broader context of cross-cultural representations in Anthropology. We will view and study key films that have defined and altered the genre as well as innovative films representing the democratization of film making which places indigenous peoples behind the camera.

SOC 471 Race and Ethnicity
Prof. Courtney Carter
Mon 4:00-6:45 pm
The realities of race, a social creation treated as a biological fact, are all around us. We needn't look hard to see how race is connected to many current events. In this course, we will explore issues of race from a sociological perspective, asking how and why the idea of race was created, and looking at the ongoing consequences of this creation for our life chances, identities, and everyday interactions. Our main objectives for this course include:

• Understanding the origins of the modern concept of race
• Understanding the history of race in the USA
• Understanding how racism intersects with other inequalities, like sexism and classism
• Understanding the extent to which the concept of race permeates every aspect of our lives- from our families and neighborhoods, to our schools and workplaces.

CME 760 Critical Race Theory in Education
Prof. Norma Marrun
Tues. 4:00-6:45 pm
This course is designed to help students enhance their understanding of critical race theory's (CRT) intellectual genealogies (TribalCrit, FemCrit, DisCrit, LatCrit, AsianCrit, QueerCrit, and WhiteCrit) and its applications to the field of education. CRT in education provides a conceptual lens to critically interrogate mainstream educational policies and practices with a race-conscious lens. Specifically, we will examine analytical concepts such as deficit thinking, microaggressions, community cultural wealth, interest convergence, transformational resistance, intersectionality, and whiteness as property.
Interdisciplinary Studies

IDS 494 Interdisciplinary Inquiry
Prof. Constancio Arnaldo
TR 11:30-12:45 pm

This course is designed for students to apply interdisciplinary studies as a mode of inquiry and to conduct preliminary research for their capstone projects to be completed in IDS 495. Students will learn to deepen their understanding of a well-defined research topic by analyzing the problem and evaluating relevant disciplinary insights into it. The course is split into two parts: 1) Inquiry as Conversation and 2) Inquiry as Research. In Part I (Weeks 1-8), we will build a list of secondary source readings that address your research question. Students will read the sources critically and systematically in search of conflicting insights between their different areas of study. Upon completing their selected readings, students will write a literature review to show they can participate in academic conversations. We will also be engaging in collective discussions about your topic in order to help you frame it as a problem worth studying. In Part II (Weeks 9-15), students will conduct preliminary research to establish a foundation for their capstone projects. Together, we will develop a research proposal to guide in the collection and evaluation of sources, explore the process of doing research, and talk about how your research topic fits in with the existing body of literature you examined in the first half of the course.