Spring 2020 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 105 African American Music and Culture: It’s Bigger than Hip-Hop
Prof. Javon Johnson
Thursdays 1:00-3:45 pm
This course explores the political and aesthetic foundations of hip hop. We will trace the musical, visual, corporeal, intellectual, and literary components of hip hop across its nearly five decade presence as a global cultural phenomenon. We will also examine the various Black cultural practices, as well as Black political economic, and historical circumstances, that have given rise to its various idioms. Additionally, we will critically discuss key debates in hip hop. From disco to Dapper Dan, from gangster rap to graffiti, from video vixens to viral videos, we will explore hip-hop as music, art, dance, style, look, speech, and more.

AAS 232 History of Africa
Prof. Jeff Schauer
TR 10:00-11:15 am
This course explores the history of sub-Saharan Africa from early times to the beginning of the 21st century. It focuses on trade, religion, language, and state building as forces for connectivity, within Africa and to the world as a whole. It also explores how social status, gender, and race have shaped Africans' experiences across this long history.

AAS 264 African American Psychology
Prof. Patricia Heisser-Metoyer
MW 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 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 433/633/WMST 472 Black Sexualities**  
**Prof. Javon Johnson**  
**Wednesdays 1:00-3:45 pm**  
When Marlon Bailey stood in front of the audience at the Black Studies Conference at Northwestern University and said, “It’s time to talk about sex,” he did so while incredibly aware of the pernicious notions of black sexual deviancy, homophobia within Black Studies, racism within queer studies, and the robust history of white sexualized violence enacted on black people. Following Bailey, and of course Salt-N-Pepa who urged us in 1990 to “talk about sex, baby…and…all the good things and all the bad things that may be,” this course makes use of black feminist theory, black queer theory, black masculine studies, black pop culture, and black literature to examine black sex and sexuality. While we will indeed explore scholarship that illuminates the history of sexual violence enacted on black people (and black women in particular), this course also takes its cue from a more recent cohort of black sexual scholars who write about black sexual agency and pleasure. In so doing, we will examine the nasty and neat, the political and personal, as well as the pleasures and pains of black sex and sexuality as theory, method, and object.

**AAS 440 Slavery in Film and Media**  
**Prof. Tyler Parry**  
**Tuesdays 1:00-3:45 pm**  
“Slavery in Film and Media” examines how slavery has been represented in film and television outlets from the early twentieth century to the present. It invites students to discuss how the politics of race, historical memory, and national mythology have (or have not) initiated an evolution in visually portraying enslaved people and the plantation system in both the United States and abroad. It will cover a diverse array of movies, including major motion pictures like *Django Unchained* and *Twelve Years a Slave* to television productions such as *A Woman Called Moses* and *Roots*. Additionally, students will assess how different producers, directors, and actors have attempted to push boundaries by placing such productions within different genres, including comedy, romance, and the “western.”

**ENG 495A/AAS 492 Early African American Literature: The Neo-Slave Narrative**  
**MW 10:00-11:15 am**  
**Prof. Briana Whiteside**  
This course will explore the ways in which African American writers confront the southern landscape by re-imagining the site of the plantation. Through neo-slave narratives, we will examine how black writers rework accounts of racialized slavery, and study how they grapple with the brutality of transatlantic slavery’s history, cultural memory, representation, resistance, identity, race, gender, sexuality, and subjectivity. In giving voice to the voiceless and power to the powerless, neo-slave narratives complicate and directly call into question the traditional histography of master narratives, and we will think through the implications of such. A few texts that we will read are Octavia Butler’s *Kindred* (1979), J. California Cooper’s *Family* (1991), Dolen Perkins-Valdez’s *Wench* (2010), and Phyllis Alesia Perry’s *Stigmata* (1998).
American Indian and Indigenous Studies

AIIS 100 Introduction to American Indian Studies
Prof. Neil Dodge
TR 10:00-11:15 am

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.

HIST 438C/AIIS 438C Great Personalities in American Indian & Indigenous History
Prof. William Bauer
MW 1:00-2:15 pm
This course explores the history of Indigenous People in North America through the framework of biography. This course studies how prominent Indigenous men and women in North America protected and maintained their sacred histories, land, ceremonies and language.

ENG 494A/AIIS 494A Native American Literature
Prof. Steven Sexton
TR 10:00-11:15 am
Louis Owens says that stories make the world knowable and inhabitable. While they help us understand the world, they also help us understand the people who tell them. 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-imagination, 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. The course will also feature a special unit devoted to Mvskoke (Creek) poet Joy Harjo to commemorate her current tenure as the first Indigenous U.S. Poet Laureate.
Asian and Asian American Studies

AIS 101 Introduction to Asian Studies
Multiple sections and instructors

AIS 102 Introduction to Asian American Studies
Prof. Mark Padoongpatt
TR 2:30-3:45 pm
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.

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 388.1002 Great Personalities: Major Koreans of the 20th Century
Prof. Austin Dean
MW 1:00-2:15 pm
In this class we will focus on the lives and legacies of important figures in 20th century Korea, particularly Syngman Rhee, Kim II-sung, and Park Chung-hee. We will explore their experience in the late Choson Dynasty, during Japanese colonialism, World War II, and in independent North and South Korea. We will also compare and contrast their competing visions of how South and North Korea should develop. We will finish the class by examining how their descendents—Kim Jong-il, Kim Jong-un, and Park Geun-hye—continued to influence the politics, economics, and culture of the Korean peninsula into the 21st century.

AIS 400X Filipinx American Experiences
TR 1:00-2:15 pm
Prof. Constancio Arnaldo
This course explores Filipinx American historical experiences during the twentieth century and critical issues facing contemporary Filipinx American communities. It traces the history of labor migration to the United States, including farm workers, military migrants, and nurses. Despite being the second largest Asian minoritized group in the United States, the stories of Filipinx Americans are often obscured and
misrepresented in the fabric of American society. Significant attention will be paid to issues of race, gender, class, and sexuality, as well as the diversity of cultural and social perspectives among Filipinx Americans. Finally, the course will examine how the community engages with popular culture practices (sports, music, dance) as important sites for Filipinx American identity formations and how these practices are agentic strategies through which they engage in political contestation.

ENG 485A/685A/AIS 485A Asian Literature
Prof. Felicia Campbell
Tuesdays 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 bizarre world of Haruki Murakami, to China under Mao and later, then to the Asian diaspora into North America.
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. Danielle Roth-Johnson
Wednesdays 8:30-11:15 am

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.

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. Kerie Francis
Online
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 463/ENG 425A Climate Justice/Literature of Climate Crisis
Monday 4:00-6:45 pm
Prof. Charles Whitney (whitney@unlv.nevada.edu)
We live in astounding times and pretend we don’t. The climate crisis threatens to destroy our fossil-fueled world, and to disproportionately affect those who bear the least responsibility for its furor. Despite California’s raging fires, that crisis still affords earthlings a shrinking amount of time to fashion more just and lasting worlds framed ecologically. This course concerns diverse, imaginative speaking and writing that in different ways could help establish such worlds. The compelling figure of Greta Thunberg, her forthright argument, and her rending affect have inspired many that way. So have poets’ expressive ironies and intimacies, and the moving insights of engaged journalists and visionary novelists exploring
the drivers and possible outcomes of our predicament. Nonfiction authors assigned: Thunberg, Naomi Klein, Todd Miller, Bruno Latour, Amitav Ghosh. Fiction: Arundhati Roy, Octavia Butler, Saci Lloyd (YA), Paolo Bacigalupi, Jesmyn Ward, Waubgeshig Rice (substitutions possible). A new, definitive, online anthology of criticism, Cli-Fi, ed. Goodbody and Johns-Putra, will help shape discussion. Except for novels (Butler, Lloyd, Ward, Rice), readings will be on Canvas. Major assignments: midterm and final exams, two papers, and a class presentation on a reading.

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 Sex and Gender in Las Vegas
Prof. Lynn Comella
MW 11:30-12:45 pm
With the setting of Las Vegas as a vibrant backdrop, this course poses the following question: What does it look like to do gender and sexuality studies in a city known for its highly gendered and sexualized economy, one that is derided by some and celebrated by others? Deeply interdisciplinary in its approach, this course examines sex and gender in Las Vegas with a focus on activism, entertainment, labor, tourism, sexual harassment, queer culture, resistance, and survival. We will read oral histories about black mothers organizing for rights on Las Vegas’ historic Westside; ethnographic studies of strip club culture and the history of brothels; the city’s LGBT culture; and constructions of masculinity and femininity within the city’s entertainment industry. We will spend time in UNLV’s Special Collections and Archives in order to assess how ideas about sex and gender have evolved and changed over time to become central to the ways in which Las Vegas both imagines and markets itself as a 21st-century tourist destination.

WMST 497 Feminist Praxis
Prof. Lynn Comella
Mondays 2:30-5:15 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

SOC 472/LAS 472 Latinos/as in America
Prof. Cassaundra Rodriguez
Mondays 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.

SPAN 496 Spanish Dialectology
Prof. Margarita Jara
Thursdays 4:00-6:45 pm
This class will study different regional varieties of Spanish throughout the world, including differences in pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary. Additionally, the socio-historical context of the diversification of Spanish will be covered. Taught in Spanish.

ENG 496D/LAS 496D Contemporary Latino/a Literature
Prof. José Roach Orduña
MW 11:30-12:45 pm
Literature has played an important role in the histories and cultures of the Americas. As such it reflects many of the interconnected realities of our hemisphere. Las Vegas is one of the fastest growing Latinx populations in the United States, and many people in our community trace their personal histories to the various cultures we will be engaging with this semester. In his introduction to The Oxford Book of Latin American Essays, writer and critic Ilan Stavans says of the essay form: “no other literary genre seems more suitable to map the Latin American psyche, its labyrinthine patterns, its unspeakable secrets.” “To confront, to dispute, to contradict, to think through vital issues from inside out and top to bottom is the job of the essay,” he goes on to say. Throughout the course of the semester, we will read authors who do just that, and in the process, make vital additions to our collective hemispheric cultural knowledge.
Other courses of interest

HIST 100 Indigenous People, Colonialism, and Sovereignty
Prof. William Bauer
MW 10:00-11:15 am
This course creates awareness of the ideas, individuals, and social forces that have shaped history. This semester we will explore the history of Indigenous People and sovereignty, in the context of the constitution making in sites of colonialism and imperialism, such as the United States, Nevada, Hawai‘i, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

HIST 209 World History from 1500 to the Present
Prof. John Curry
MW 10:00-11:15 am
This course covers the global interconnections that have developed across the world since 1500, with an emphasis on non-European histories including Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

PSY 470 Health Psychology
Tuesdays 2:30-5:15 pm
Prof. Renato (Rainier) M. Liboro
This course is a survey of theory and evidence on and about human psychology that contributes to our understanding of health and illness. It is designed to give a broad overview of Health Psychology – a sub-discipline of Psychology that focuses on the symbiotic relationship between psychology and health, as well as the intersection of biological, psychological, and social factors influencing health and wellbeing. Its primary focus is on understanding the role of psychological factors in the prevention of illness and the promotion of health. A range of current topics in Health Psychology are covered in the course, including an overview of the sub-discipline; the role of the macrosocial influences; social inequalities/inequities and vulnerability to disease; research philosophies and methodologies; models of health and illness; health behavior and experience; illness experience and health care; and health promotion and disease prevention.

SOC 437 Sociology of Education and Race
Prof. Courtney Carter
Sociologists have longed recognized that education plays a critical role in upward mobility, acculturation and assimilation, but also the reproduction of social inequalities. Through this course we will examine education as a site for contested racial politics, where racial disparities are reproduced but also interrupted. We will cover primary through post-secondary education, and touch on a variety of topics including curriculum, discipline, the racial achievement gap, affirmative action and diversity, and the racial politics of Predominately White Institutions and Minority-Serving Institutions. As a course on the sociology of race and race, you can expect to learn about sociological theories of the education, the broader social forces behind racial disparities in resources and achievement, and the continuing efforts to reduce racial inequalities in access and outcomes.

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.