CIRCULATIONS OF DIFFERENCE
Introduction to Ethnic Studies

Prof. Yên Lê Espiritu
Office hours: Wed 1-3 p & by appointment
Join URL: https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/92185022713

Teaching Assistants and Discussion Sections
Burgundy Fletcher Wed 9a (A1) and 10a (A3)
Camila Gavin Fri 9a (A8) and 10a (A10)
Rochelle Mcfee Fri 11a (A11) and 3p (A13)
Nima Rassooli Fri 3p (A14) and 4p (A16)
Daniel Rios Wed 9a (A2) and 11a (A5); Fri 9a (A7)
Hina Shaikh Wed 10a (A4) and 11a (A6); Fri 10a (A9)
Muhammad Yousuf Fri 11a (A12) and 4p (A15)
Course Description
Part of a year-long introduction to the Ethnic Studies major, this course examines how racial formation in the US has been shaped by inter-regional and transnational migration and the circulation of commodities, knowledge, bodies, and culture. Course readings and class discussions will foreground an analysis of how the social construction of racial, gender, and sexual difference has both shaped and been shaped by historical and contemporary processes of movement, displacement, and containment.

Note: This syllabus is subject to change; the syllabus of record is kept updated and posted on the course website on Canvas.

Structure of Asynchronous “Lectures”
There will be no synchronous lectures for this course. To accommodate different learning styles and preferences, the “lectures” will be a module of three learning activities that I provide for each week:
- Read something: lecture notes posted by me summarizing main points of the week’s readings—4 to 5 pages. Posted by Monday class time each week.
- Listen to something: a published short podcast or an audio lecture that I have recorded—15 to 20 minutes. Posted by Wednesday class time each week.
- Watch something: a published short video or a video lecture that I have recorded—15 to 20 minutes. Posted by Friday class time each week.

Structure of Synchronous Discussion Sections
Discussion sections will be synchronous (live and virtual); and attendance is required. It is important that you attend the section in which you are registered throughout the duration of the course. It is the collective responsibility of all those present in section to create a collegial environment conducive to respectful exchange and intellectual growth. Please treat others’ ideas, perspectives, and work with respect and generosity. Do consult your section syllabus for additional information regarding expectations and requirements.

Note on Online Participation: If you are in a time zone where you cannot attend the synchronous discussion sections, please inform your TA immediately. Indicate which of the following options you plan to do:
- watch the recorded discussion section and respond to the discussion via online discussion board in a post of around 250 words.
- attend office hours with your section instructor to share your responses to the live/synchronous discussions that you have viewed as a recording.

Required Texts
Some course readings can be accessed via hyperlinks on the syllabus; the rest of the readings can be viewed and downloaded via Canvas. Other relevant course materials will also be posted on Canvas throughout the quarter.
Course requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion section participation – 20%</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Immigration Law” Assignment – 25 %</td>
<td>90-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infographic Assignment – 25%</td>
<td>86-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project – 30%</td>
<td>83-85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>76-79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>73-75</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-93</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>66-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-85</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>63-65</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>60-63</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>0-60</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Immigration Law” Assignment – Due date: Jan. 29 (Week 4). Instructions will be posted on Canvas

Infographic Assignment – Due date: Feb 26 (Week 8). Instructions will be posted on Canvas

Final Project: Video Reflections – Friday March 19 (Finals Week) at 2:30 p.m.

**Grading policy.** You must complete all assignments and receive a passing grade in your discussion section in order to receive a passing grade in the class. For the P/NP option, a “Pass” requires the equivalent letter grade of C or above.

Academic Honesty
All work submitted in this course must be your own and original. Each student is expected to be familiar with and abide by UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship.

Discussion Ethics
This class is intended for students interested in challenging commonly held understandings of race, gender, sexuality, nation, and class. Please engage one another in discussion with respect, generosity, and consideration. Abusive and harsh language, intimidation and personal attacks will not be tolerated. These norms are reflected in the UCSD Principles of Community that we are all expected to follow.

Accommodations
I am committed to creating a course that is inclusive in its instruction and design. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or to accurate assessment of your achievement, please notify me immediately. You may also seek assistance or information from the Office for Students with Disabilities.

If you prefer to be called by a different name or referred to as a different gender than the one under which you are officially enrolled, please inform me, so that we can adjust accordingly.
Unit 1 – Ethnic Studies: “Wake Work”

Week 1 – Jan 4, 6 & 8 | Setting the Terms

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/557744ffe4b013bae3b7af63/t/557f2fe2e4b043c28125cc27/1434398690240/Tuck_Suspending+Damage_HER.pdf


Unit 2 – Immigration, Race, and Nation

Week 2 – Jan 11, 13 & 15 | “Operation Gatekeeping”: The Production of Illegality


Week 3 – Jan 20 & 22 | “Fictive Kinship”: Controlling Sexuality at the Border

January 18, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.


Unit 3 – Border Crossers: Colonialism, Empire and Militarism

Week 4 – Jan 25, 27 & 29 | US Colonialism and “Return” Migration


Week 5 – Feb. 1, 3 & 5 | Globalization and Imperialism


Week 6 – Feb 8, 10 & 12 – U.S. Militarism


**Week 7 – Feb 17 & 19 | U.S. Militarism and Militarized Refugees**

February 15 – Presidents’ Day Holiday


**Unit 4 – Boundaries Crossers: Solidarities and Possibilities**

**Week 8 – Feb. 22, 24 & 26| South-South Solidarity: The Rising Tide of Color**


**Week 9 – March 1, 7 &9 | Youth Activism: Cross-Racial & Anti-Imperial**


**Week 10 – March 8, 10 & 12 | Feminist Refugee Epistemology**


---

**Majoring or Minoring in Ethnic Studies**

An Ethnic Studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, education, medicine, public health, social work, counseling, public policy, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor, please contact:

Monica Rodriquez, Ethnic Studies Undergraduate Program Advisor
[ethnicstudies@ucsd.edu](mailto:ethnicstudies@ucsd.edu) or visit [www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu](http://www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu)