Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity

Program of Study

Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity (RDI) is a revision to the Critical Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES) program. Students in the Classes of 2024 and 2025 have the option to pursue either RDI or CRES. The CRES program of study and course requirements can be found on the archived catalog page.

Coursework in the Department of Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity enables students to rigorously study race, diaspora, and indigeneity—categories that constitute human identity through claims of particularity, origins and continuity, and mobility and dispersal, in order to enact power within the modern world. These meanings can be seen in how unequal status, exploited and extracted condition, and disproportionate violence and harm inform the histories of peoples comprising these categories. Yet they are also evident in the ingenious, intersecting identities and affiliations enacted by those same peoples—ones that imbue art, cultures, politics, and collectives with transformational and emancipating power. Through teaching, mentorship, and collaborations of various kinds, we explore with students how to think through these multifaceted and contradictory experiences, equitably and empathically.

This study and practice provide our students with a rigorous critical lens that serves them well in diverse fields. Whether our graduates are interested in media or policy, medicine or social work, organizing or entrepreneurship, or graduate study in a variety of disciplines, they benefit from their ability to understand the social formations that shape our world and navigate complex and sometimes contradictory concepts that others may find challenging or uncomfortable, through historic and analytic lenses.

Ours is a broad curriculum generated within a thoroughly multidisciplinary department. Students work with acclaimed experts in literature, creative writing, anthropology, political science, sociology, social work, linguistics, visual arts, history, urban studies, and cinema and media studies, among other fields. Several core approaches tie together the range of interests across our community. These sustain rigorous inquiry that incorporates knowledge created beyond the boundaries of academia, while also cautioning that those who claim to advance knowledge must account for the benefits and costs that result from ideas’ impact upon the world. Among our core approaches are intersectionality and critical theory, and the recognition of both identities and power structures originating through complex co-creation; dedication to utilizing multiple methodologies within the humanities and social sciences; and a willingness to take seriously and value ideas beyond the classroom and campus.

Program Requirements

The major requires 13 courses: three introductory critical concepts courses, four courses distributed across the foundational categories, four RDIN electives, and two courses related to the thesis/capstone project. Students opting to not complete a BA thesis or capstone project must replace the two courses related to the thesis/capstone project with two RDIN electives.

Students have the option of combining RDI with any major or minor in any division or school of the University.

Critical Concepts

These introductory courses are meant to introduce students to the central texts and key debates that inform the study of the department's three core concepts. Courses on each term will be offered annually by a rotating group of faculty in the department. After taking these courses, students will be able to identify the intellectual genealogies in which these concepts are situated and have a basic understanding of the central axes of debate.

- RDIN 12100 Racial Formations: The course introduces students to the idea of race as a concept and racialization as a process. Students will be introduced to the diversity of meanings the concept of “race” has held, the uses to which it has been put, and how it has been both contested and mobilized by those who have been racialized. The “Racial Formations” course will, furthermore, include discussion of the history and relation of the terms race, caste, and ethnicity. The goal of the course is, in other words, to oblige students to question their everyday understandings of the term and acquire the tools needed to identify and analyze racial formations.
- RDIN 12200 Diaspora(s): This course will introduce students to the concept of diaspora understood simultaneously as global processes of migration and dispersal, and as political and cultural practices of meaning-making. Students will think through the distinctive and overlapping experiences of various diasporic communities—organized around race (i.e., African diaspora), regions (i.e., Asian diaspora), religion (i.e., Jewish diaspora), etc. From an exploration of these histories, students will explore diasporas as an alternative deterritorialized and transnational frames of political imagination (in contradistinction to, say, the nation-state).
- RDIN 12300 Formations of Indigeneity: In this course, students will consider Indigenous conceptions of peoplehood and the processes of settler colonialism as well as other forms of social formation. Taking a comparative and transnational approach, students will examine the triad of indigeneity, land, and sovereignty as they are refracted through specific political and cultural settings. Students will also
consider contexts where the idea of indigeneity has been fraught and failed to translate, as well as its tense incorporation within the legal framework of multiculturalism or liberal democracy.

Foundational Courses

The Foundational courses are designed to expand students' knowledge in the field of RDI and its diverse methodologies. Rather than set ones, these courses are offered regularly by faculty who designated to fulfill these requirements. Approved courses for each category can be found on the RDIN Foundational Courses List (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XgnLOOKY6jDcqG_MiYqEFmB8jWLoGHJHx-cldyd72gk/edit?usp=sharing).

- **Theories:** These courses will elaborate the training offered in the Critical Concepts course by highlighting specific intellectual traditions (such as Black Feminist Thought or Caribbean Studies) or taking up more specific conceptual anchors (such as intersectionality or decolonization).

- **Practices:** These courses will cover European imperial expansions, including settler and exploitation colonies; slavery and its aftermath; intellectual histories of key terms and the social science disciplines that created or furthered them; diasporas and other migrations; postcolonial societies; Civil Rights and Black Power Movements; abolition; anti-imperialism; Intersectional movements.

- **Structures:** These courses will focus on institutions and practices of domination. Topics to be covered include racial capitalism; race and space; comparative colonialisms; legal constructs and social dynamics of segregation; apartheid; science and technology; media.

- **Aesthetics and Expressive Cultures:** This will include courses on literary, visual, sonic, and other modes of expressive cultures, and highlight how cultural productions reshape and resignify our central conceptual anchors. Students will also develop analyses attuned to form, genre, circulation, and reception of aesthetic materials.

Electives

Any RDIN or CRES course may be an elective. In exceptional circumstances, students can petition the director of undergraduate studies to count no more than two non-CRES/RDIN courses toward the major electives. If students did not take the Colonizations sequence to fulfill their general education requirement in civilization studies, they will be allowed to count it among their electives. Students may petition to count other potentially relevant civilization sequences (i.e., African, Latin American, Asian) for major credit (again, only if they did not take those sequences to fulfill their civilization requirement).

BA THESIS/CAPSTONE PROJECT

Students majoring in RDI may, if they wish, write a BA thesis or complete a capstone project. Students who choose to do so are eligible for departmental honors, though completing a thesis or project does not guarantee honors. A recommendation of the faculty advisor is required for honors, and students should have a discussion in advance with their advisor to ensure a mutual understanding of expectations for what would constitute an honors-level project.

The BA thesis enables students to apply theoretical or empirical concepts gleaned from their coursework and conduct independent inquiry toward the development of original, critical research on a topic of their choice.

The capstone project offers a chance to apply ideas and skills developed in the major to a variety of settings and media, such as a conference or symposium, an internship, a performance, an art installation, a podcast or film, among many options. This project can be carried out individually or in collaboration with other graduating students.

Students pursuing a thesis or capstone project must identify an RDI faculty member who can supervise their project or paper, with the option of securing a second reader outside of the department. Students then submit a short proposal, which should reflect feedback from the faculty advisor, to the director of undergraduate studies by the end of Winter Quarter of their third year.

Students completing a thesis/project must enroll in RDIN 29800 BA Thesis/Capstone Seminar, a course led by the department's preceptor(s) designed to introduce students to a range of research methods and to help determine which method(s) would fit a research thesis or capstone project focusing on topics related to race, diaspora, and/or indigeneity. Students will attend this seminar in Spring Quarter of their third year and Autumn Quarter of their fourth year. In Spring, the seminar meets weekly. In Autumn, the seminar meets every other week. Students register for RDIN 29800 in either of those quarters, but must attend both.

Students completing a BA thesis/project must also register for RDIN 29900 BA Essay / Capstone Project, a reading and research course under the supervision of their faculty advisor. The final grade on the thesis/project will be assigned to the RDIN 29900 registration.

BA theses and capstone projects are due by Friday of the fifth week of the student's quarter of graduation. Students will present their work at a departmental symposium.

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

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<tr>
<th>Three Critical Concepts Courses</th>
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<td>RDIN 12100 Racial Formations</td>
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RDIN 12200  Diaspora(s)  
RDIN 12300  Formations of Indigeneity  

Four Foundational Courses: One course from each list  
400  
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<th>Theories</th>
<th>Practices</th>
<th>Structures</th>
<th>Aesthetics and Expressive Cultures</th>
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| RDIN 29800 BA Thesis/Capstone Seminar  
| or one RDIN elective | RDIN 29900 BA Essay / Capstone Project  
| or one RDIN elective |  
Total Units: 1300  

HONORS  
To be eligible for honors, students must earn a 3.25 major GPA, complete a BA thesis or capstone project, and receive a recommendation for honors from their faculty advisor.  

MINOR IN RACE, DIASPORA, AND INDIGENEITY  
The RDI minor consists of five courses: three courses on Critical Concepts (Indigeneity, Diaspora, and Racial Formations), and two additional RDIN courses. These courses may not be (1) double-counted with the student’s major(s) or with other minors and (2) may not be counted toward general education requirements.  

Three Critical Concepts Courses  
300  
| RDIN 12100  Racial Formations |  
| RDIN 12200  Diaspora(s) |  
| RDIN 12300  Formations of Indigeneity |  
Two RDIN Electives  
200  

Total Units: 500  

GRADING  
Students may take up to two courses in the major on a P/F basis. All courses in the minor must be taken for a quality grade.  

RACE, DIASPORA, AND INDIGENEITY COURSES  

RDIN 10600. Power and Resistance in the Black Atlantic. 100 Units.  
Beginning with the arrival of European explorers on the West African coast in the fifteenth century and culminating with the stunning success of radical abolitionist movements across the Americas in the nineteenth century, the formation of the Black Atlantic irrevocably reshaped the modern world. This class will examine large-scale historical processes, including the transatlantic slave trade, the development of plantation economies, and the birth of liberal democracy. Next, we will explore the lives of individual Africans and their American descendants, the communities they built, and the cultures they created. We will consider the diversity of the Black Atlantic by examining the lives of a broad array of individuals, including black intellectuals, statesmen, soldiers, religious leaders, healers, and rebels. We will examine African diasporic subjects as creative rather than reactive historical agents and their unique contributions to Atlantic cultures, societies, and ideas. Within this geographically and temporally expansive history students will explore a key set of animating questions: What is the Black Atlantic? How can we understand both the commonalities and diversity of the experiences of Africans in the Diaspora? What kinds of communities, affinities, and identities did Africans create after being uprooted by the slave trade? What methods do scholars use to understand this history? And finally, what is the historical and political legacy of the Black Atlantic?  
Instructor(s): M. Hicks Terms Offered: Winter  
Note(s): Assignments: short and long papers.  
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 10600, HIST 10600, DEMS 10600  

RDIN 12100. Racial Formations. 100 Units.  
Race is arguably the most significant social category shaping the fabric and trajectory of American life—and yet, it is also one of the most poorly understood and eagerly avoided topics in our public consciousness. In this course, we will examine paradigms for understanding race in both academic and popular contexts. Using theoretical constructs, historical case studies, contemporary topics in politics and culture, and empirical research on racial attitudes and disparities, this course explores questions such as: what are the racial boundaries that shape our lives? Where did they come from, how have they changed over time, and how are they continuing to evolve? Whose interests do they serve? We will also draw on news and current events to observe and analyze the ways that racial boundaries and the social meaning of race impact public policy and public debate.
RDIN 12200. Diaspora(s) 100 Units.
This class will orient students to the practices, frameworks, and geopolitics of diasporic communities from the early modern period to the present. The term’s initial origins in Jewish experiences of forced dispersal and migration underscores how its meaning is shaped by histories of collective displacement and loss, as well as invention and heritage. The discourse of diaspora remains foundational for several interdisciplinary fields, including Black studies, Asian American studies, Indigenous studies, Latinx studies, and more. Within these intellectual orientations, diasporic identities are notably expansive and unfixed. As observed by the late cultural theorist Stuart Hall, “diaspora identities are those which are constantly producing and reproducing themselves anew, through transformation and difference,” bridging old and new traditions of worldmaking, resistance, and solidarities within and across distinct diasporic sensibilities.” Students in this class will work with scholarly, literary, sonic, and visual materials demonstrating how use of diaspora alternately mobilizes and roots people, in ways that claim pasts and futures at once.
Instructor(s): Cathy Cohen Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): None
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 12600

RDIN 12300. Formations of Indigeneity. 100 Units.
Whose land are we on? What does it mean to be Indigenous, for generations past and in the twenty-first century? From debates over claims of Indigenous ancestry by political actors to the struggles of sacred lands protection against natural resource extraction, understanding the stakes of these challenges for Indigenous peoples and nations is more relevant than ever. This seminar-part of the sequence for majors in the Department of Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity-introduces students to core texts and concepts in the field of Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS). Topics will include sovereignty and governance, settler colonialism, citizenship and nationhood, blood quantum and racialization, diasporas and urban indigeneity, and relationships to land and environment. Course activities may include engagement with Indigenous films, dialogues with visiting Indigenous scholars, and field trips to Chicago-area cultural institutions.
Instructor(s): Teresa Montoya and Matthew Krueger Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): CHST 12300, CRES 12800, HIST 17800, ANTH 12800

RDIN 13580. Introduction to Asian American Literatures. 100 Units.
This is a survey course that introduces students to the complex and uneven history of Asians in America from within a transnational context. As a class, we will look at Asian American texts and films while working together to create a lexicon of multilingual, immigrant realities. Through theoretical works that will help us define keywords in the field and a wide range of genres (novels, films, plays, and graphic novels), we will examine how Asia and Asians have been represented in the literatures and popular medias of America. Some of the assigned authors include, but are not limited to, Carlos Bulosan, Maxine Hong Kingston, Joy Kogawa, Fae Myenne Ng, Nora Okja Keller, Cathy Park Hong, Ted Chiang, and Yoko Tawada.
Instructor(s): Mee-Ju Ro Terms Offered: TBD
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 13580, CRES 13580

RDIN 16100. Introduction to Latin American Civilization I. 100 Units.
Autumn Quarter examines the origins of civilizations in Latin America with a focus on the political, social, and cultural features of the major pre-Columbian civilizations of the Maya, Inca, and Aztec. The quarter concludes with an analysis of the Spanish and Portuguese conquest, and the construction of colonial societies in Latin America. The courses in this sequence may be taken in any order.
Instructor(s): Kouri; Newman; Borges; Brittenham Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): SOCS 26100, ANTH 23101, LACS 34600, HIST 16101, LACS 16100, HIST 36101, CRES 16101

RDIN 16200. Introduction to Latin American Civilization II. 100 Units.
Winter Quarter addresses the evolution of colonial societies, the wars of independence, and the emergence of Latin American nation-states in the changing international context of the nineteenth century.
Instructor(s): Winter: Hicks; Schwartz-Francisco; Tenorio Autumn: Borges Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 34700, CRES 16102, HIST 16102, SOCS 26200, ANTH 23102, PPFA 39770, HIST 36102, LACS 16200

RDIN 17908. African-American History to 1865. 100 Units.
This introductory undergraduate lecture course examines histories of people of African descent in continental North America from the colonial period to the US Civil War. relationship between slavery and republicanism in the early United States. With an interdisciplinary approach and transnational perspective, it considers the contested role of chattel slavery in the creation of US political systems, market relations, social hierarchies, and cultural productions. We will use primary sources and secondary literature to consider the possibilities and limits of archival research; contingent histories of race-making: the relationship between slavery and capitalism; the workings of domination, agency, and resistance; and black “freedom dreams” in the antebellum United States.
Instructor(s): R. Johnson Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): DEMS 17908, HIST 17908
RDIN 18405. Histories of Native America. 100 Units.
Modern Americans often think of their history beginning with the European discovery of the "New World." But those Europeans did not "discover" anything. In the Americas, they encountered an Old World filled with diverse Indigenous peoples, cultures, and polities; a world alive with its own dynamic histories. This course explores the world of Native North America from the evolution of complex city-states in the centuries before European invasion to the seismic changes that Indigenous peoples have navigated in the era of colonization (1492-present). Topics include Native struggles to create a shared world with settlers in the seventeenth century; movements to maintain independence from European empires and the new United States; nineteenth-century experiences of conquest, removal, confinement to reservations, and coercive assimilation; twentieth-century resurgence, battles in the courts, and "Red Power" activism; and twenty-first century struggles for sovereignty, self-determination, and environmental justice. Students will engage with a variety of primary and secondary sources, focusing on texts produced by Native people and centering Native points of view.
Instructor(s): M. Krueer Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 18405

RDIN 18702. Race, Politics, and Sports in the United States. 100 Units.
This lecture-discussion course explores how racial identity has been experienced, represented, and contested throughout American history. We will examine the major historical transformations that have shaped the development and understanding of racial identity, by engaging historical, legal, literary, and filmic texts. A diverse set of primary sources will be read against historical works. Moving along both chronological and thematic axes, themes of ambiguous, hidden, and hybrid identity will be critical to investigate the problems of racial mixture, mixed-race identity, racial passing, and racial performance across historical periods. The interplay of the problems of class and gender in the construction of racial identity will also be explored.
Instructor(s): M. Briones Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): History in the World courses use history as a valuable tool to help students critically exam our society, culture, and politics. Preference given to 1st- and 2nd-yr students.
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 18702

RDIN 20007. Africa in the Middle East and the Middle East in Africa. 100 Units.
From Mansa Musa’s Hajj in 1324 to the contemporary Afrobeat scene in Dubai, African and Middle Eastern societies share long histories of interconnection. This course examines these interconnections from the early modern to the contemporary era through a series of case studies ranging from traditions of exchange on the Swahili Coast, to the Ottoman Scramble for Africa, to the creation of a long-standing Lebanese diaspora in West Africa and a more recent Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel. Students will examine debates that animate this field of scholarship including conversations about race; histories of slavery and its legacies; conceptions of indigeneity, nativism, and settler colonialism; religious encounters; gender and society; shared and divergent experiences of European colonialism and struggles for independence; and transnational collective-building projects such as Pan-Africanism and Pan-Arabism. In addition to scholarship based on textual analysis, students will develop skills to investigate cultural sources such as music, photography, film, fashion, literature, and sports.
No prior coursework in Middle Eastern or African studies is required. However, a background in African Civ, Islamic History and Society Civ, or Islamic Thought and Literature Civ is recommended.
Instructor(s): K. Hickerson Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Assignments: Short papers; long paper; in-class presentation
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 20007, GNSE 20007

RDIN 20100. Afroturism(s) 100 Units.
Despite its explosion in popularity as a term of art in the last ten years, "Afroturism" remains a contested term and set of concepts—from debates about its engagement with Black diasporic identities, to the question of how essential notions of the "future" are to Afroturism. This course will explore Afroturism as a set of ideas still in flux, with repercussions across politics, aesthetics, theory, and artistic interventions, using texts from a wide array of disciplines and media, including sociology, cinema, visual art, critical theory, and literature. This course will be an RDI Community Engaged Course, meaning half of the students will be University of Chicago undergraduates and half will be members of our broader community. To be considered for enrollment in the course, please fill out the form linked below and request instructor consent. https://bit.ly/afroturisms2024
Instructor(s): Eve L. Ewing Terms Offered: Winter

RDIN 20140. Qualitative Field Methods. 100 Units.
This course introduces techniques of, and approaches to, ethnographic field research. We emphasize quality of attention and awareness of perspective as foundational aspects of the craft. Students conduct research at a site, compose and share field notes, and produce a final paper distilling sociological insight from the fieldwork.
Instructor(s): O. McRoberts Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CHDV 20140, SOCI 20140

RDIN 20233. Race in Contemporary American Society. 100 Units.
This course will examine issues of race, ethnic and immigrant settlement in the United States. Also, we shall explore the classic and contemporary literature on race and inter-group dynamics. Our investigative tools will include an analysis of primary and secondary sources, multimedia materials, photographic images, and journaling. While
Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity

our survey will be broad, we will treat Chicago and its environs as a case study to comprehend the racial, ethnic, and political challenges in the growth and development of a city.

Instructor(s): S. Hicks-Bartlett
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring. Autumn quarter offered at the Undergraduate level only and Spring offered at the Graduate level only
Equivalent Course(s): MAPS 30233, SOCI 30233, SOCI 20233

RDIN 20400. Black Girlhood. 100 Units.
First popularized on social media in 2013, the phrase “Black Girl Magic” has expanded far beyond its initial use as a Twitter hashtag. It is evident on (a bunch of different objects and the cover of many children's books and poetry anthologies). However, the visibility of the phrase did not come without controversy. Some critics argued that rather than being an uplifting rallying cry for positive depictions of black girlhood, it instead reinforced dehumanizing stereotypes of the “strong black woman”. This debate leads us to questions: How do black girls tend to be depicted both popular media and in literature? How might these depictions differ depending on author, type of media, or social context? What do they say about the ways that black girls experience childhood, gender, and friendship? To engage with these questions, this course will explore literary works including The Bluest Eye, Betsey Brown, and Abeng, along with television shows such as Lorecraft Country to examine 20th and 21st century depictions of black girlhood. We will also think with theoretical works of black feminism and black girlhood studies.

Instructor(s): Danielle Jones Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 23167, ENGL 20422, ENGL 30422, RDIN 30400, GNSE 33167

RDIN 20408. Trans Genres. 100 Units.
This course explores genres of writing and cultural production concerned with transgender life and politics. Students will engage gender’s relationship to gender, as they will read across memoir, fiction, poetry, and criticism. (Theory).

Instructor(s): C. Riley Snorton Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 20133, ENGL 22408

RDIN 20410. Ekspresyon ekri: Kreyòl lakay soti Ayiti rive nan dyaspora a. 100 Units.
This course will provide additional opportunities to promote deeper knowledge of the Haitian culture while emphasizing the development of writing skills in the Kreyòl language through the use of a variety of authentic texts and cultural experiences. Topics covered in the course will include the Haitian revolution, cuisine, and audio-visual and performing arts. Moreover, students will participate in different cultural exploration outings in the city of Chicago, which will provide additional opportunities to interpret cultural artifacts and reflect on the Haitian culture and its influence on the representation and daily lives of Haitians in the diaspora, particularly in Chicago. In this course, we will: 1) analyze different cultural artifacts in the Haitian cultures through primary and secondary texts, 2) examine the influences of these cultural phenomena on the representation of Haitians and the creation of Haitian identity in the diaspora, and 3) reflect on the importance of cultural identity in a migration context. Those who will take the course for Kreyòl credits will also develop additional syntactic knowledge in the language through creation of diverse essays. This course will be conducted in two weekly sessions: a common lecture session in English and an additional weekly discussion session in English or Kreyòl.

Instructor(s): Gerdine Ulysse
Prerequisite(s): For those seeking credit in Kreyòl, this course is open to students who have taken KREY 12300 (Kreyòl for Speakers of French II), KREY 12301 (Kreyòl for Speakers of Romance Languages II), or instructor consent. Heritage learners are also welcome.
Note(s): Course not offered in 24-25
Equivalent Course(s): CHST 20400, KREY 20400, LACS 20401

RDIN 20606. New Topics in Asian American Studies. 100 Units.
This course offers an introduction to new critical works of Asian American studies covering critical themes in an interdisciplinary fields including research from anthropology, cultural studies, gender and women studies, history, political science, psychology, and sociology. This course will focus on new works published in recent years that showcase recent theoretical innovations and literary styles that will sharpen our analysis of both Asian and Asian American experiences in the United States and globally. We will cover topics as they relate to migration, war and empire, violence, race/class/gender/sexuality, and immigration integration in educational institutions and the labor market.

Instructor(s): K. Hoang Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 20606

RDIN 20700. Global Health, Environment, and Indigenous Futures. 100 Units.
The global coronavirus pandemic has made evident the significance of ecological (im)balances for the wellbeing of societies. The relationship between structural inequalities, changing environments and health, especially for historically and socio-economically marginalized communities, is now well established. At the same time, a growing body of literature links the material conditions of marginalized communities—for instance, spaces of dwelling and conditions of labor-to health status, globally. Based on a set of interdisciplinary literature arranged through anthropological theories, this course will critically engage with notions of health and wellbeing for indigenous communities, tracing injustices that stem histories of racial, caste- and ethnicity-based, and environmental exclusions. The readings are organized around one central question: What does it mean to be indigenous in a changing planet where social, political, and economic systems are marked by enduring...
legacies of systemic violence? This graduate and undergraduate level course will introduce contexts within
which structural exclusions lead to ill-health and loss of well-being among indigenous communities across the
globe. The aim is to develop critical thinking on the political economy and political ecologies of indigenous
health as imbricated with issues of social, economic, and environmental justice.
Instructor(s): Sanghamitra Das
Equivalent Course(s): SALC 26501, CEGU 20700, ANTH 20700, CHDV 30750, CHDV 20700, SALC 32704, ANTH
30700, CEGU 30700, RDIN 30700

RDIN 20900. Violence: Vigilantism, Community Defense, and Armed Resistance. 100 Units.
This course explores extralegal violence primarily in the US, from decolonial struggles to white mobs to self
and community defense by marginalized peoples. How do we understand different forms of violence, defense,
and resistance in relation to the violence of the state? What role does violence play in struggles for justice and
freedom? This seminar surveys a range of social science approaches to these questions. In addition to reading
the work of anthropologists, historians, and philosophers, we will also take up these themes as they appear in
popular media and current events.
Instructor(s): Maya Singhal Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 22547, CRES 22900, ANTH 32547, RDIN 30900, HIST 27907

RDIN 21150. Psychology of Race and Racism. 100 Units.
This upper-level seminar will focus on the psychology of race and racism. We will discuss both structural and
individual level factors that create and maintain racism in the U.S. context. While this course will focus on social
psychology, we will also draw from other areas of psychology. We will discuss social structures and institutions
that perpetuate racism, policies that shape societal attitudes and behaviors, and psychological frameworks for
understanding racism. We will begin the course with a discussion of the origins of race and racism. We will then
transition to contemporary expressions of racism. The goals of this course are to analyze structural contexts
influencing racist attitudes and behaviors, evaluate the impact of racism on racially minoritized groups, and to
examine strategies and interventions to address racism.
Instructor(s): K. Henderson Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): PSYC 21150, RDIN 31150, PSYC 31150

RDIN 21200. African-American History: 1900-2000. 100 Units.
The Black experience in America is one that encompasses a wide variety of walks of life. Within this introductory
undergraduate course, we will explore the 20th century experience of African Americans in Jim Crow
segregation, migration, labor, medicine, world wars, civil rights, and black power. This course considers racial
barriers in the built environment, with a particular emphasis on the city. We will use primary and secondary
sources to construct conceptions of political struggle, economic rights, resistance, and freedom in African
American life.
Instructor(s): Caine Jordan Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): RDIN 31200, HIST 27420, HIST 37420

RDIN 21315. Narratives of American Religious History. 100 Units.
How do we tell the story of religion in America? Is it a story of Protestant dominance? Of religious diversity?
Of transnational connections? Of secularization? This course examines how historians have grappled with such
questions. We will read the work of scholars who have offered narratives explaining American religious history,
including figures like Sydney Ahlstrom, Albert Raboteau, Mark Noll, Ann Braude, Catherine Albanese, and
Thomas Tweed. This course will introduce students to key historiographical questions in the study of American
religion, as well as to classic texts which have shaped the field’s development.
Instructor(s): William Schultz and Curtis Evans Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): This course meets the HS or SCSR Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 21315, AMER 41315, RDIN 41315, AMER 21315, CRES 22315, KNOW 41315, HIST
27304, HIST 47304, HCHR 41315, RAME 41315

RDIN 21677. Latinxs, Labor, and the Law in the U.S. 100 Units.
Latinidad” is an ethno-racial signifier meant to encompass people of Latin American descent living in the United
States. Terms like “Latina,” “Hispanic,” and most recently, “Latinx/e” are meant to evoke a commonality that
crosses nationalities to create political power & social recognition in the United States. Like every other identity
term, “Latinidad” is an ever-contested construction with uncertain contours. The history of Latinidad in the
U.S. has its origins in a myriad social efforts and forces: political campaigns, immigration policies, community
organizing, migrant labor programs, union campaigns, marketing strategies, artistic expressions, & many more.
Rather than simplify or ignore these tensions, the purpose of this class is to confront the agonistic aspects of
Latinidad head-on. In this course, students will read widely across the social sciences & humanities, delving
deep into the making and remaking of “Latinidad” in the U.S. We will be playing foremost attention to the roles
that U.S. economic relations & government policies have had in shaping collective understandings of Latinidad,
from the making of a “brown collar” labor sector sustaining the American economy to the development of census
categories to describe Latinxs. Furthermore, we will look at U.S. Latinxs not merely as objects of policy, but also
as subjects of politics, delving into the past and present of U.S. Latinx political life.
Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 22677
RDIN 22100. Disease, Health, and the Environment in Global Context. 100 Units.
Recent concerns about monkeypox, COVID-19, Zika virus, and Ebola have attracted renewed attention to previous disease outbreaks that have significantly shaped human political, social, economic, and environmental history. Such diseases include: smallpox during the 16th-century Columbian exchange; syphilis during the 18th-century exploration and settlement of the Pacific; bubonic plague in the late-19th-century colonization and urbanization of South and East Asia; and yellow fever during America’s 20th-century imperial projects across the Caribbean. Through readings, discussions, library visits, and written assignments that culminate in a final project, students in this course will explore how natural and human-induced environmental changes have altered our past experiences with disease and future prospects for health. First, we will examine how early writers understood the relationship between geography, environment, hereditary constitution, race, gender, and human health. We will then analyze the symbiotic relationship among pathogens, human hosts, and their environments. Finally, we will explore how social factors (e.g. migration, gendered divisions of labor, poverty, and segregation) and human interventions (e.g. epidemiology, medical technology, and sanitary engineering) have influenced the distribution of infectious diseases and environmental risks.
Instructor(s): Christopher Kindell Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): This course counts towards the CEGU/ENST 4th year Capstone requirement. CEGU/ENST 4th years wanting to take this as their Capstone must contact instructor and BA Capstone Director Dr. Evan Carver.
Equivalent Course(s): HIPS 22210, HIST 25033, HLTH 22100, GLST 22101, CEGU 22100

RDIN 22203. Caste, Reproduction, and Citizenship in India. 100 Units.
This undergraduate and graduate level seminar will center on caste and reproduction in understanding notions of citizenship in India. The course will systematically engage with ideas of belonging to the post-colonial nation-state, particularly as experienced from following standpoints-gender, caste, indigeneity, and class. Understanding how citizenship is constituted, performed and negotiated in India, especially in relation to the biological and political reproduction of 'good citizens', reveals the scopes and limits of citizenship as governance. The course is premised on the centrality of reproduction to governance in the largest democracy of the world. Drawing on a set of interdisciplinary literature, the readings are organized around feminist theorizations of the State, governance, and citizenship to locate the body within the body politic. The aim is to develop critical thinking on how the politics of reproduction is deeply imbricated with the reproduction of democratic politics; a politics that is entangled with knowledge, expertise and constructed human difference. In so doing, the course brings together reproductive governance with articulations of social justice in India.
Instructor(s): Andrew Seiner Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): HIPS 22210, ANTH 23203, GNSE 22207, CHDV 22203, CHDV 32203, SALC 35704, GNSE 32207

RDIN 22311. Aspirations of Justice. 100 Units.
This class thinks through questions of what justice means, what justice promises, what justice betrays, and what possibilities for politics are opened by aspirations of justice at moments of radical rupture. It does so through a focus on critical conceptual terms that also become the frameworks for praxis and institutionalization after war/violence/trauma/revolution/colonialism/slavery/casteism: terms such as transition, transformation, restoration, reconstruction, and repair. The readings will be comparative but grounded out of South Africa’s experience of transition from apartheid, a process that remains frictioned, fractured and far from finished. At the core of the class are two concerns. First: how does one think about non-retributive forms of justice, and what aporias of forgiveness lie at their core? Second, how do these imaginaries and forms of justice get constituted and instituted, out of different histories of foundational violence, different transitional processes, at different moments in time? How, in the process, do histories themselves get rewritten through a process of rewriting wrongs?
Instructor(s): Kaushik Sunder Rajan
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 22311, AASR 36311, HIPS 26311, ANTH 36311, CHSS 36311, CCCT 36311

RDIN 22350. Black Game Theory. 100 Units.
This course explores games created by, for, or about the Black diaspora, though with particular emphasis on the United States. We will analyze mainstream “AAA” games, successful independent and art games, and educational games. Beyond video games, we will take a comparative media studies perspective that juxtaposes video games with novels, films, card games, board games, and tabletop roleplaying games. Readings will be drawn from writing by Frantz Fanon, Noah Wardrip-Fruin, Lindsay Grace, Saidiya Hartman, Sarah Juliet Lauro, Achille Mbembe, Fred Moten, Frank B. Wilderson, and others.
Instructor(s): Patrick Jagoda and Ashlyn Sparrow Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 32350, CDIN 32350, ENGL 32352, ENGL 22352, CMST 22350, RDIN 32350, MAAD 12350

RDIN 22561. Justice at the Margins: Religion, Race, and Resistance Ethics. 100 Units.
How does race shape what we think about what is right and wrong, just and unjust? How about religion? Is “justice” a universal idea that stretches across social groups, or do our experiences as members of a religious and/or racial group have fundamentally affect our understanding(s) of justice? We’ll begin by examining works by Aristotle, King, Rawls, and Nussbaum, asking what each theorist thinks justice entails and why. Along the way, we’ll ask how stated and suppressed understandings of both “race” and “religion” inform their theories, as well as complicate and challenge them. Then we’ll set these theories of justice in conversation with works by Francisco de Vitoria, W.E.B. Du Bois, James Baldwin, Cornel West, Traci C. West, and the Movement for Black Lives, each of which offers a protest against injustice in which “race” and “religion” play a prominent role. No previous knowledge required.
Instructor(s): Derek Buyan Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): This course counts as an elective course for the "Inequality, Social Problems, and Change" minor and as an approved course for the Democracy Studies minor.
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 25561, HMR 25561, CRES 22561

RDIN 22900. Intro to Critical Race Theory. 100 Units.
Critical Race Theory (CRT) has recently filled headlines as it has become a hotly debated topic in U.S. political, educational, and media discourse. However, the tenets and thinkers that shape CRT tend to be left out of the conversations that dominate the media. What is this theoretical framework? Who are the thinkers who shape and contribute to these theories of the construction of race? What does CRT say about the relationship between race and institutions, such as the United States’ legal system or education? To address these questions, students in this course will read and engage with foundational texts of CRT by scholars including Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, Kimberlé Crenshaw, and Cheryl Harris. In addition to learning the key tenets of this theoretical framework, students will also use it to think across disciplines, institutional structures, and forms of media.
Instructor(s): Danielle Jones Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 12900, ENGL 22930

RDIN 23001. Censorship in East Asia: The Case of Colonial Korea. 100 Units.
Looking into the intricate workings and profound impact of state publication control in the Japanese Empire during the first half of the twentieth century, this seminar examines how censorship influenced literary and other forms of publication within the Korean colony. Students analyze the manipulation of information and representation by engaging with a diverse array of primary sources, including literature, periodicals, police reports, censors’ documents, posters, and postcards, among others. Not only do they seek a nuanced understanding of censorship and its impact on cultural production engaging themselves with the original materials from colonial Korea, but also do they gain a broad historical knowledge of modern Korea under Japanese rule and further East Asia under Japan’s dominance and hegemony. Throughout the course, focus is placed upon manuscript (“pre-publication”) censorship. [Consent Required; Proficiency in Korean or Japanese is not required.]
Instructor(s): K. Choi Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): MAAD 16001, CRES 23001, EALC 23001, EALC 43000

RDIN 23002. Schooling and Identity. 100 Units.
This course examines the dynamic relations between schooling and identity. We will explore how schools both enable and constrain the identities available to students and the consequences of this for academic achievement. We will examine these relations from multiple disciplinary perspectives, applying psychological, anthropological, sociological, and critical theories to understanding how students not only construct identities for themselves within schools, but also negotiate the identities imposed on them by others. Topics will include the role of peer culture, adult expectations, school practices and enduring social structures in shaping processes of identity formation in students and how these processes influence school engagement and achievement. We will consider how these processes unfold at all levels of schooling, from preschool through college, and for students who navigate a range of social identities, from marginalized to privileged.
Instructor(s): Lisa Rosen Terms Offered: Winter. Offered winter 2025
Prerequisite(s): Priority registration will be given to MAPSS students seeking the Education and Society certificate.
Equivalent Course(s): RDIN 33002, EDSO 33002, EDSO 23002, CHDV 23003, SOCI 20530, SOCI 30530

RDIN 23202. Black Religious Protest in the U.S. 100 Units.
This course examines African American religious protest against the American nation for its actual history and its ideals in view of black oppression. The course begins with David Walker’s Appeal (1829) and ends with debates around Jeremiah Wright’s “God damn America” sermon. The course situates black religious protest amidst discussions of the American Jeremiad, a particular critique of the nation in relation to the divine, American exceptionalism, and racial injustice. We attempt to trace continuity and discontinuity, hope versus pessimism, and visions of a more perfect union in these public critiques of the nation.
Instructor(s): Curtis Evans Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): This course meets the HS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): AMER 22202, HIST 47416, RLST 22202, HIST 27416, HCHR 42202, AMER 42202, RAME 42202

RDIN 23210. Urban Core in Paris. 100 Units.
This course is both an introduction to how historians think about cities and a history of cities in France and the French Empire, with a focus on Paris, from the Middle Ages through 1968. The course is chronological in organization, but each class also focuses on a different theme, such as the place of politics, industrial development, migration, culture, and commerce in the transformation of urban forms and experiences.
Instructor(s): L. Auslander Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Paris: Social Sciences Urbanism program
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 23210, ENST 23210, ARCH 23210

RDIN 23510. The Sociology of Racism: Evolutions, Debates, and Future Directions. 100 Units.
This course seeks to give students a rigorous introduction to the sociological subfield of the study of race over the last roughly 100 years - with a specific focus on how scholars have theorized racism(s). Moving chronologically,
This seminar invites students to examine the intersections of colonialism with architecture in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia. Throughout the semester, we will discuss the designs of architects working in the region (Le Corbusier, Fernand Pouillon, Shadrach Woods, etc.) and concepts defining colonialism as a design project (segregation, repression, primitivism, etc.). We will also pay particular attention to modes of opposition pursued by residents and their historical impact toward the region’s decolonization. Moments of heightened historical consequence, such as the strategic use of selected architectural spaces by independentist guerrillas, will be
ter thoroughly discussed. The class will progress through a chronological scope, from Orientalism as a 19th century phenomenon to the enmeshment of modernism with colonialism in the 20th century. We will conclude with the emergence of postcolonial modernities.

Instructor(s): Jacobé Huet
Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 35119, ARTH 25119, RDIN 35119, ARCH 25119

RDIN 26050. Race, Ethnicity, Language, and Citizenship in the United States. 100 Units.
This course is intended to help students make sense of the current discourse on diversity and inclusion/exclusion from a historical perspective. They will be trained to read critically the evolution of political discourse on citizenship in the United States since the American Revolution. They will learn to detect the role of shifting interpretations of race and ethnicity, after that of European nationality, in determining who is (not) a (full) citizen. For instance, who counted as “American” in the early stages of the Republic? Why were Native Americans and (descendants of) forced immigrants from Africa excluded at the outset? How did English become the unofficial language of American citizenship and inclusion? What factors favored its rise and drove to extinction the competing European national languages?
Instructor(s): Salikoko Mufwene
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): LING 26050, CHDV 36055, CHDV 26050, LING 36050

RDIN 26220. Dance, Identity, and Appropriation. 100 Units.
This survey course will look at the ways that dance-across genres, geographies, and histories-has negotiated, challenged, and complicated ideas of identity and authority. Grounded in histories including the 1893 World Columbian Exposition, where Swedish-American Christine Olson performed Turkish dance on the Midway, as well as modern dance pioneer Ruth St. Denis’ imitation of the Indianess she encountered on a cigarette ad, we will explore case studies including American minstrel traditions, hip hop dance, the Nutcracker and other classical ballets, dance tourism like Hula and West African forms, viral K-pop dance tutorials, and more. These case studies will be used to discover how dance, and the dancing body, performs and problematizes appropriation. Part seminar/part practicum, assignments will include short written papers and performance projects including dance reconstructions.
Instructor(s): E. Leopold
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): RDIN 36220, TAPS 26220, TAPS 36220

RDIN 26290. Mapping Black Social Dance: Hip Hop and House in the Community and Onstage. 100 Units.
This hybrid studio/seminar course offers an overview of the formal techniques, cultural contexts, and social trends that shape current Black social and vernacular dance practices. Modules will be built around Black social culture by looking at key histories and theories around Black dance, music and other cultural aesthetics from hip hop to house. As part of our exploration, we will cover themes such as: the Great Migration, the range of Black social dance forms from blues, jazz, disco, and dancehall that have influenced the evolution of hip hop and house on a global scale; and the spectrum of social spaces from clubs to lounges and public events that have been critical to preserving Black cultural heritage and creating safe spaces for belonging and flourishing. Selected readings and viewings will supplement movement practice to give historical, cultural, and political context.
Instructor(s): M. McNeal
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): TAPS 26290, TAPS 26290, RDIN 36290, MUSI 23620, MUSI 33620, CHST 26290

RDIN 26302. Bodies at Work: Art & Civic Responsibility. 100 Units.
Contemporary artists are quickly adapting their practices to be more inclusive, diverse, accessible and physically safe. In particular, the rise of intimacy design and anti-racist work in theatre, film and television has opened up a dialogue about how artists do their work responsibly. Through practice and investigation, this class will dive into the responsibility of artists in contemporary artistic processes. We will explore how the tools and capacities of artists can transform civic practice and, conversely, how artists are grappling with the civic issues of body safety, anti-racism and accessibility in arts practice. We will explore how centering the body can create respectful engagement in the arts. We will look at the work of Enrich Chicago, Nicole Brewer, Sonya Renee Taylor, Not in Our House and Intimacy Directors & Coordinators among others.
Instructor(s): D. Serna
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): MAAD 20302, TAPS 26302, CHST 26302, GNSE 26303

RDIN 26312. Race, Crime, and Justice in the City. 100 Units.
The size and growth of the U.S. jail and prison census, and its deleterious consequences for the poor, and especially for poor black people who reside in the nation’s most disadvantaged communities, has been well documented. This course examines some of this work but goes further in addressing how the targets of mass incarceration experience crime control policy, how criminal legal expansion shapes urban, and, in recent years, suburban and rural sociality, and how criminalized people work to bring about change in the laws and policies that regulate their lives.
Equivalent Course(s): SSAD 26312, RDIN 46312, SSAD 46312

RDIN 26380. Indigenous Politics in Latin America. 100 Units.
This course examines the history of Indigenous policies and politics in Latin America from the first encounters with European empires through the 21st Century. Course readings and discussions will consider several key historical moments across the region: European encounters/colonization; the rise of liberalism and capitalist expansion in the 19th century; 20th-century integration policies; and pan-Indigenous and transnational social
movements in recent decades. Students will engage with primary and secondary texts that offer interpretations and perspectives both within and across imperial and national boundaries.

Instructor(s): Diana Schwartz Francisco Terms Offered: Course not offered in 24-25 Equivalent Course(s): RDIN 36380, CRES 26380, LACS 26380, HIST 26318, GLST 26380, HIPS 26380, ANTH 23077, LACS 36380

RDIN 26384. Art and the Archive in Greater Latin America. 100 Units.

How and why do artists engage records of the past in their work? What are the politics of both creating archives and culling from them to visually render or represent the past? Focusing on artists, art-making, and archives in Greater Latin America (including the United States), this course will consider the process of collecting and creating in artistic production from the perspectives of both theory and practice. Students in the course will work directly with archival materials in Chicago and collaborate on contemporary artistic projects that consider issues of relevance to people and places of the Western Hemisphere.

Instructor(s): Diana Schwartz Francisco Terms Offered: Course not offered in 24-25 Equivalent Course(s): LACS 26384, HIST 26319, ARTH 26384, ARTV 20017, CHST 26384

RDIN 26386. Greater Latin America. 100 Units.

What is “Latin America,” who are “Latin Americans” and what is the relationship among and between places and people of the region we call Latin America, on the one hand, and the greater Latinx diaspora in the US on the other? This course explores the history of Latin America as an idea, and the cultural, social, political and economic connections among peoples on both sides of the southern and eastern borders of the United States. Students will engage multiple disciplinary perspectives in course readings and assignments and will explore Chicago as a crucial node in the geography of Greater Latin America. Some topics we will consider are: the origins of the concept of "Latin" America, Inter-Americanism and Pan-Americanism, transnational social movements and intellectual exchanges, migration, and racial and ethnic politics.

Instructor(s): Diana Schwartz Francisco Terms Offered: Course not offered in 24-25 Equivalent Course(s): LACS 36386, RDIN 36386, SPAN 36386, LACS 26386, ANTH 23003, HIST 26321, CRES 26386, SPAN 26386

RDIN 26674. The Global Black Panther Party. 100 Units.

In America, the Black Panther Party and its leaders, like Fred Hampton in Chicago, are famous for their revolutionary fight against white supremacy and their violent suppression by US government forces. But what does a Global Studies approach teach us about the Black Panthers? This seminar explores how the Black Panther Party’s worldwide networks impacted global understandings of politics, race, and religion. Our readings examine a series of comparative case studies, including the Dafit Panther Party in India, the Mizrahi Black Panther Party in Israel, and the Polynesian Panthers in New Zealand. We analyze primary sources, such as the various Panther Parties’ publications, their mainstream press coverage, and their pop cultural representations, like Ta-Nehisi Coates' Black Panther graphic novel and the film Black Panther: Wakanda Forever. In this course, students learn the global Black Panther Parties’ roles in reshaping worldwide conceptions of race, caste, and religion through their encounters with the Nation of Islam, Hindu Nationalism, Zionism, and Indigenous rights.

No prior knowledge or coursework is required.

Instructor(s): Andrew Kunze Terms Offered: Spring Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 20537, GLST 26674, RLST 26674

RDIN 26922. Structuring Refuge: U.S. Refugee Policy and Resettlement Practice. 100 Units.

The UN estimates that there are 100 million forcibly displaced people around the world (UNHCR, 2022), with over 27 million refugees among them, but in 2022 only 57,500 refugees were resettled to third countries. Historically the U.S. has been the largest resettlement country, and in the U.S. refugees are entitled to federal, state, and local supports that other immigrants do without. At the same time, refugees in the U.S. are arguably subject to greater scrutiny and social control than most other un-incarcerated domestic populations. This course asks the central questions: How is refugee status politically constructed and experienced by individuals; what are the interrelationships between institutional actors and refugee policies, with what implications for service delivery; what does research tell us about the resettlement outcomes. and what drives these outcomes; and finally, what are the points of intervention for social workers in the resettlement process? We will address these questions by: 1. detangling the web of international and domestic policies that relate to the refugees’ political identity; 2. focusing on U.S. resettlement; 3. analyzing resettlement policies and exploring the implications for social work practice targeted at integration, employment, and mental health; and 4. holding the inherent tension that can result from a dual focus on macro issues of scale and policy and micro issues related to the lived experience of human beings.

Equivalent Course(s): CRES 26922, SSAD 26922, CHST 26922, SSAD 46922, HMRT 46922

RDIN 27543. Black and/or Human: On Humanism and Racialized Being. 100 Units.

What is it to be human and why does it matter? This course invites students to engage the question within the relation between theories of humanism and the histories of dehumanization as pertains to the racialization of Black people. Specific theories of the human have served as foundations of practices of dehumanization, and yet experiences of dehumanization have led to the development of new forms of humanism. In light of histories of enslavement and colonization and the related hierarchies of the human, what is the conceptual basis of the hierarchization within or exclusion from the category of the human? What does it feel like to be dehumanized and how does one adequately respond to such an experience? Some thinkers reject the concept while others
reclaim it to inspire new existential outlooks on the world or political struggles. This course will explore the wide literature on these questions, supplementing written texts with other media such as film and music. We will focus on the implications of theories of humanism for the particularly human form of being, the pursuit of the good, and the organization of social life. Engagement in this course will be based on discussion, personal reflection, and the relation of course material to contemporary issues.

Instructor(s): Kevin Irakoze
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Prior coursework on Critical Race Theory or consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): PHIL 27543

RDIN 27544. African Philosophy. 100 Units.
This course is a general survey of African philosophy. We will read a selection of writings from African philosophers, spanning geographical space and historical periods. The tendency for the study of African philosophy is to focus solely on post-colonial writings with texts originally written in French or English. Against this tendency, the course will introduce students to a wider chronology of African philosophy that traverses various historical eras and with an attention to the diversity of the original languages of primary texts (including Ge’ez, Arabic, German, and Latin). In addition to often-studied figures such as Paulin Hountondji and Kwame Gyekye, we will engage with such thinkers as Ahmad Bābā al-Timbukti, Augustine of Hippo, Zara Yaqob, James Africanus Beale Horton, and Anton Wilhelm Amo. Instruction will emphasize the close reading of primary texts within relevant historical contexts. Students will be encouraged to engage African philosophy on its own terms and in conversation with other philosophical traditions.

Instructor(s): Kévin Irakóze
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): This course is introductory and does not require any prior coursework in philosophy.
Equivalent Course(s): PHIL 27544

RDIN 27600. Cinema in Africa. 100 Units.
This course examines Africa in film as well as films produced in Africa. It places cinema in Sub Saharan Africa in its social, cultural, and aesthetic contexts ranging from neocolonial to postcolonial, Western to Southern Africa, documentary to fiction, art cinema to TV, and includes films that reflect on the impact of global trends in Africa and local responses, as well as changing racial and gender identifications. We will begin with La Noire de... (1966), by the “father” of African cinema, Ousmane Sembene, contrasted w/ a South African film, African Jim (1960) that more closely resembles African American musical film, and anti-colonial and anti-apartheid films from Lionel Rogosin’s Come Back Africa (1959) to Sarah Maldoror’s Sambizanga, Sembène’s Camp de Thiaroye (1984), and Jean Marie Teno’s Afrique, Je te Plumerai (1995). The rest of the course will examine 20th and 21st century films such as I am a not a Witch and The wound (both 2017), which show tensions between urban and rural, traditional and modern life, and the implications of these tensions for women and men, Western and Southern Africa, in fiction, documentary and fiction film. (20th/21st
Instructor(s): Loren Kruger
Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): One or more of the following: Intro to Film/ International Cinema AND/OR Intro to African Studies or equivalent
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 48602, CMST 34201, CMLT 22900, ENGL 27600, ENGL 47600, CMLT 42900, RDIN 37600, CMST 24201, GNSE 28602

RDIN 27685. History Colloquium: Asian/Pacific Islander American History, 1850-2021. 100 Units.
Looking through a broad interdisciplinary lens, this course will examine the trajectory of Asians and Pacific Islanders in America. How did nineteenth- and early twentieth-century “sojourners” become “citizens”? What constituted the public’s shift in perception of Asians from unassimilable alien to ostensible “model minority”? We will interrogate not only what it means to have been and to be an Asian in America but also what role APIAs have played in striving for a multiracial democracy. The history of anti-Asian violence will be traced from the mid-nineteenth century to the most recent hate crimes in the age of COVID. Conscious of the tendency to homogenize all Asians in the historical imagination, the course will be explicitly comparative, incorporating the diverse and disparate experiences of East, Southeast, and South Asians, as well as Pacific Islanders in America over time. We will, also, at times, investigate the histories of other ethnic/racial groups and compare their experiences to the Asian American experience.

Instructor(s): M. Briones
Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Priority registration is given to History majors.
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 29685

RDIN 27708. Feeling Brown, Feeling Down. 100 Units.
Taking its cue from José Esteban Muñoz’s 2006 essay in Signs, this course interrogates negative affective categories as they are expressed in US ethnic literature in the 20th and 21st centuries. As Muñoz argues, “depression has become one of the dominant affective positions addressed within the cultural field of contemporary global capitalism”; this course explores orientations such as depression, shame, sickness, and melancholy to think critically about racial formations amidst capital and how these are posed alongside literary questions. Primary texts may include Larsen, Ozeki, Morrison, and Okada; secondary texts may include Ahmed, Freund, Muñoz, Cheng, and Spillers.

Instructor(s): Megan Tusler
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 27708, RDIN 47708, MAPH 47708, AMER 27708, AMER 47708, ENGL 47708
RDIN 29000. Cinema and the Speculative Archive: Theory & Practice Seminar. 100 Units.
Recent years have seen the flourishing of work by experimental filmmakers that imaginatively engages with absences in the historical record, especially around the visual history of African Americans. How might scholarship adapt methodologies from these creative practices? How can scholarly methods, in turn, inform art making (as the formation of another kind of history)? Engaging theory and practice, this course investigates these questions through-and-against-African American media history’s precarious archival condition. Students interested in enrolling should contact Professor Field at anfield@uchicago.edu.
Instructor(s): Allyson Nadia Field & Christopher Harris Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Not offered in 2024-25.
Equivalent Course(s): CHST 29000, RDIN 39000, CMST 39000, CCCT 39000, CMST 29000

RDIN 29117. Theater and Performance in Latin America. 100 Units.
What is performance? How has it been used in Latin America and the Caribbean? This course is an introduction to theatre and performance in Latin America and the Caribbean that will examine the intersection of performance and social life. We will place particular emphasis on performance art, and examine some theatrical works. We ask: how have embodied practice, theatre and visual art been used to negotiate ideologies of race, gender and sexuality? What is the role of performance in relation to systems of power? How has it negotiated dictatorship, military rule, and social memory? Ultimately, the aim of this course is to give students an overview of Latin American performance including blackface performance, indigenous performance, as well as performance and activism.
Instructor(s): Danielle Roper Terms Offered: Course not offered in 24-25.
Prerequisite(s): Undergraduates must be in their third or fourth year.
Note(s): Taught in English.
Equivalent Course(s): RDIN 39117, GNSE 39117, SPAN 29117, LACS 29117, SPAN 39117, LACS 39117, TAPS 28479, GNSE 29117, TAPS 38479

RDIN 29427. Fashion, Empire, Capitalism. 100 Units.
Clothing, famously termed the “social skin”, mediates the space between individuals and societies. Whether articulating personal taste or reflecting a collective identity, dress can be a powerful symbol both historically and in the contemporary world. Worn against the skin, clothing is both intimate and connects us to a global, multi-billion-dollar system that employs roughly one in every ten people worldwide. This course addresses the multivalent history of dress from early modern imperial encounters in the Atlantic World, to anti-colonial movements in South Asia, to the nineteen-forties American Zoot Suit Riots—demonstrating the ways that clothes are connected to gendered and racial categories, political projects, and the shape of global capitalism. Students will analyze case studies from Malabar to Manchester, colonial Lima to revolutionary France, nineteenth-century Zanzibar to nineteenth-eighties New York. Examining the history of dress and its global interconnections necessitates an interdisciplinary approach; therefore, students will combine historical scholarship with theoretical frameworks from the anthropology of dress and methodologies from material culture studies to analyze sources ranging from museum objects to films, haute couture fashion to flip-flops. Finally, this course sheds light on historic interconnections and the development of fashion systems, asks what ways these continue to animate our contemporary world, and imagines new possibilities for the future.
Instructor(s): K. Hickerson Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Assignments: material analyses, essays, and an original research project.
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 29427, HIST 29427

RDIN 29634. African Cities and Urbanism. 100 Units.
This course looks at urbanism and urbanization in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries through a focus on selected cities in East, Southern, and West Africa. Beginning with existing trade routes and economic centers onto which some colonial cities were mapped, the course explores waves of migration over different historical periods, infrastructural imaginaries and the policies that shaped them, informal and formal economies, and cultural expressions and representations of life and living in the city. We will draw from a diversity of sources including fiction, non-fiction, architecture, town planning, photography, and the arts to examine political, social, economic, and topographical features and forces that drove the growth and development of each city studied, and also to reflect on commonalities that emerged between cities across different regions of the continent.
Instructor(s): T. Thipe Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CEGU 29634, HIST 29634

RDIN 29661. Colloquium: Digital Humanities/Digital History. 100 Units.
The modern era has been punctuated by episodes, some lasting centuries, of exploitation, expropriation, and genocide. This course will address how people and institutions have sought to grapple with the legacies of the extreme violence that polities, societies, and individuals have inflicted on each other through the collection and display of the material, documentary, and testimonial fragments left behind. Focusing on the archives and museums dedicated to the genocide of Indigenous peoples, slavery, and the Holocaust, we will discuss the following questions: What is an object of trauma? What makes its way to a depository of traumatic events, what does not, and why? What do archivists and curators hope to accomplish? What stories can be told, given that so many of the voices of victims are irretrievable? What happens to a remnant of trauma once it is in the custody of a museum or an archive? What is the relationship between archives of trauma and their exhibition? We will consider the traumatic remains that have been deposited both in specialized and in general archives and museums. This seminar-style class will involve intensive discussion of primary sources and interdisciplinary
scholarship. We will also be going on study trips to archives and museums around Chicago, such as the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, the DuSable Black History Museum & Education Center, and The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian.

Instructor(s): L. Auslander & T. Goldsmith Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 29661, JWSC 29661

RDIN 29700. Readings in Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity. 100 Units.
This is a general reading and research course for independent study not related to the BA thesis/capstone project. To register, students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. May be taken for P/F grading with consent of instructor. With prior approval, students who are majoring/minoring in RDI may use this course to satisfy program requirements.
Instructor(s): staff Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter

RDIN 29800. BA Thesis/Capstone Seminar. 100 Units.
This course is designed to introduce students to a range of research methods and to help determine which method(s) would fit a research thesis or capstone project focusing on topics related to race, diaspora, and/or indigeneity. The seminar functions as a research workshop in which students identify a research topic, develop a research question and explore a range of methods for their research thesis or capstone project. Class of 2024: Students will attend this seminar both in Autumn and Winter quarters of their fourth-year. In Autumn quarter the seminar meets weekly. In Winter quarter the seminar meets every other week. Class of 2025 and beyond: Students will attend this seminar in Spring of their third-year and Autumn of their fourth-year. In Spring quarter, the seminar meets weekly. In Autumn quarter the seminar meets every other week. In both cases, the seminar spans two quarters, and students may enroll in the course the quarter of their choosing.
Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter
Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 29800

RDIN 29900. BA Essay / Capstone Project. 100 Units.
Students may register for RDIN 29900 during any quarter of their fourth year. Use the College Reading and Research Course Form to register. Must be taken for a quality grade.
Instructor(s): staff Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter

RDIN 29943. Exhibiting the Art of the Ancient Americas. 100 Units.
This course will consider the history of exhibiting the art of the ancient Americas from the colonial period until the present. From the European Wunderkammer to the development of the modern museum, we will consider how colonial institutions and categories shaped the reception of visually elaborated objects from past Indigenous cultures. Paying close attention to the choice of objects presented in exhibitions as well as to the museographical decisions that shaped their presentation-to the extent that they can be reconstructed from archival materials—we will explore how exhibitions both reflected and shaped changing understandings of the ancient American past.
Instructor(s): C. Brittenham Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Consent Only
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 29943, ARTH 39943, RDIN 39943