RACE AND RESISTANCE STUDIES

College of Ethnic Studies
Dean: Dr. Amy Sueyoshi

Race and Resistance Studies Department
Ethnic Studies and Psychology Building 210
(415) 338-1645
Chair: Dr. Jason Ferreira

Program Scope

The Race and Resistance Studies minor is an interdisciplinary program that provides undergraduate students with an approach to social justice to study race as a politically produced and contested process that begins with institutions, movements, and social problems, to examine racialized communities. The curriculum examines how race, gender, and class are co-constitutive factors of identity, how different groups are racialized in relation to one another; how social justice movements cohere and fall apart; and how groups have formed their own identities. The Race and Resistance Studies minor provides students with non-traditional, multi-ethnic, and comparative perspectives on national and transnational experiences of people of color within the U.S.

Professor

CATRIONA R. ESQUIBEL (2005), Professor of Race and Resistance Studies; B.A. (1989), New Mexico Highlands University; M.A. (1991), University of Colorado, Boulder; Ph.D. (1999), University of California, Santa Cruz.


Associate Professor


JASON FERREIRA (2005), Associate Professor of Race and Resistance Studies; B.A. (1992), University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; M.A. (1995), Ph.D. (2003), University of California, Berkeley.

Lecturer


Major

- Bachelor of Arts in Race and Resistance Studies

Minors

- Minor in Critical Pacific Islands & Oceania Studies
- Minor in Queer Ethnic Studies
- Minor in Race and Resistance Studies

RRS 100 Introduction to Ethnic Studies (Units: 3)
History, objectives, and philosophy of Ethnic Studies. Student’s personal, educational and career development in a pluralistic society and an institute of higher education. [CSL may be available]
(This course is offered as ETHS 100 and RRS 100. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

RRS 101 Introduction to Arab and Muslim Communities (Units: 3)
Introduction to Arab and Muslim communities studies in U.S. and Americas and Asian and African ancestral homelands. Employing Arab, Muslim, Ethnic, Race and Resistance, Gender and Sexuality, American Middle East, Diasporas, Ethnicity Studies and Social Movement theory.

RRS 103 Introduction to Pacific Studies (Units: 3)
Examination of historic and contemporary issues related to Pacific Islander communities in the United States across the Pacific Islander diaspora.
(This course is offered as RRS 103 and AIS 103. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

RRS 110 Critical Thinking and the Ethnic Studies Experience (Units: 3)
Basic skills involved in understanding, criticizing, and constructing arguments by using materials reflective of experiences of ethnic/racial groups in the U.S.
(Note: In order for this course to satisfy General Education, students must earn a C- or CR or higher grade if taken fall 2014 or later.)

RRS 201 SFSU’s Palestinian Cultural Mural and the Art of Resistance (Units: 3)
Critical investigation of the roles public art plays in transnational social justice movements, historically and currently. Examination of the history and legacy of Palestine Cultural Mural at San Francisco State University.

RRS 212 Edward Said (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: RRS 101.

RRS 224 Arab-American History, Community, and Activism (Units: 3)
Introduction to Arab-American history, community, and organizational development in the United States.

RRS 240 All Power to the People: Comparative Freedom Movements of the "Sixties" (Units: 3)
Introduction to the history and comparative survey of the African American, Chicana/o, Native American, and Asian American protest and liberation movements of the "Long Sixties" (1945-1975). [CSL may be available] (Formerly ETHS 240)

RRS 250 Race, Ethnicity and Power in America (Units: 3)
Critical examination of political concepts, processes and constructions of power that center race and ethnicity within a comparative analysis of American ideals, institutions and laws. Includes a study of constitutional issues and state and local governmental processes. [formerly ETHS 250]
RRS 252 Beyond Bars and Borders: Race and the Carceral State (Units: 3)
Examination of the intersection of race and the carceral state. A comparative exploration of how diverse communities of color have experienced and struggled against racialized regimes of incarceration and displacement. Highlights how these racialized regimes that center on controlling the movement (or lack thereof) of communities of color are shaped by class, gender, and nation. Studies race and the carceral state in both domestic and global/transnational terms.

RRS 255 Voices in Exile: Arab and Muslim American and Civil Liberties post-9/11/2001 (Units: 3)
Changes post 9/11/2001, focusing on how Arab and Muslim Americans are affected. The case of the LAB, Sami Al-Arian, and Rasmkah Odeh will be used as a case study to analyze how government actions have affected Arab and Muslim Americans’ civil liberties.

RRS 260 Introduction to Arab and Arab American Feminisms (Units: 3)
Writings by Arab and Arab American feminists to explore assumptions on and about Arab and Arab American experiences in the United States from multiple geographical sites, spiritualities, occupations, sexualities, class backgrounds, and generations.

RRS 276 Race, Activism and Climate Justice (Units: 3)
Examination of the intersection of race, socio-economics, political ecology and climate change on a global scale; overview of the scientific evidence for anthropogenic causes and impacts; and exploration of environmental justice, political ecology, disparate impacts on different peoples and activism on global and local levels.

RRS 280 Race, Gender, and Science Fiction (Units: 3)
The use of science fiction as a way of examining intersections of race, gender, and sexuality. Includes an exploration of histories of slavery, removal, and colonization. Discussion of reproductive technologies. [Formerly ETHS 280]

RRS 282 Art and Cultural Practices of Oceania (Units: 3)
Acquire an understanding of the relationships of art, culture, and power to Pacific peoples through the various forms of art found within Oceania. The practice of critical analytical skills in art criticism.

RRS 285 Race, Sports, and Society (Units: 3)
Examines connections between race, “politics” and high-profile professional sports in the United States and abroad. Multiple issues explored using interdisciplinary approach, including critical race theory and socio-historical and socioeconomic constructs. [Formerly ETHS 285]

RRS 290 Sounds of Resistance: Race, Rhythm, Rhyme, and Revolution (Units: 3)
Examination of intersection of music and freedom movements within and across communities of color. A comparative exploration of how music reflects and shapes social struggle, flowers out of people’s interconnected histories and cultures, promotes both critical consciousness and collective action, and serves as a multifaceted weapon in the fight for human liberation. Studies music and social movements in both domestic and global/global/transnational terms.

RRS 295 Race, Public Art, and Creative Resistance (Units: 3)
Introduction to the history of public arts among communities of color, from Los Angeles, Albuquerque, San Antonio, and New York. How have artists made use of public art – posters, Teatro, murals, billboards, “walking murals,” puppetry, among others – to contest racist caricature and stereotyped images of people of color. How have they promoted new visions of community, of society, of social justice? (Plus-minus letter grade only)

RRS 303 Health and Wellness among Pacific Islanders (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

RRS 304 Decolonize Your Diet: Food Justice and Gendered Labor in Communities of Color (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

RRS 310 Arab Revolutions and Social Movements (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

RRS 330 Comparative Race and Ethnicity in the U.S.: Class, Gender and Nation (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Restricted to upper-division standing; GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4; or consent of the instructor.

RRS 333 Race and Independent Cinema (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Restricted to upper-division Cinema majors and minors and Race and Resistance Studies minors; CINE 200*, CINE 202*, CINE 204*, CINE 211*, and CINE 212* or equivalents with grades of C or better; or consent of the instructor.

RRS 350 Race, Labor, and Class (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Upper division standing or consent of instructor.

Explores how film, documentaries, feature films, and shorts can be used to challenge dominant narratives and explore the lives and experiences of marginalized communities. Focus on the immediate events that sparked these revolutions as well as the historical, socio-economic, political and ideological factors that contributed to the political shifts in 2010-2011.

(RRS 300 Race and Resistance Studies)
Race and Resistance Studies

RRS 360 Cultural Dialogues and Ethnic Literature (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Ethnic literature as a comparative dialogue between cultures, in relation to other forms of artistic expressions, and within the context of the humanities, cultural patterns, aesthetic experiences, and political activism.

RRS 365 Race and Comedy in the United States (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

How comedy in popular culture both reflects and shapes ideas related to race in the United States. Ideas from popular culture have long impacted the politics of race, and perhaps no genre has had a greater effect on how people think about race than comedy.

RRS 370 Islamophobia: Roots, Development and Contestation of Hatred (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4; ETHS 100 or RRS 100; or consent of the instructor.

Examination of how limited conceptual frameworks color our understandings of history, race, gender, religion, and justice with regard to Muslims.

RRS 380 Coloring Queer: Imagining Communities (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Restricted to upper-division standing; GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4; or consent of the instructor.

Interdisciplinary examination of the experience of queers of color in the U.S. through anthropology, sociology, history, literature, and cultural studies. Specific focus on racism, homophobia, transphobia, and intersectionality.

(This course is offered as RRS 380 and SXS 380. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

RRS 400 Islam and Fiction in English (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Upper-division standing or consent of the instructor.

Introduction to various representations of Islam in modern fiction, both in the Islamic world and beyond. Focused on the literary-cultural influences portrayed in texts that address Islam and Muslims whether centrally or peripherally.

(This course is offered as ARAB 400 and RRS 400. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

RRS 410 Grassroots Organizing for Change in Communities of Color (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: Restricted to upper-division standing; GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4; or consent of the instructor.

An advanced examination of grassroots social change movements in communities of color in the U.S. How they are organized and why they succeed and fail. Combines social change theory, history, and practical contemporary approaches to grassroots social justice work. [CSL may be available]

(This course is offered as RRS 410 and SOC 410. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

RRS 420 Arab American Identity: Memory and Resistance (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Examination of emergent Arab American identity from the historical context of post-colonial processes including nationalism, culture, and politics. Anti-orientalist analysis utilizing texts from different subject areas including history, poetry, psychoanalysis, post-colonial studies, critical theory, and cinema. [CSL may be available]

RRS 430 Arab Media Images in America: Impact on Arab Americans (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Historical and contemporary imaging of Arab people in their mainstream American media and its effects on Arab American communities and individuals. A look at stereotypes and negative Arab images in American film, television, literature, and journalism.

RRS 433 Pacific Islanders in Film: Re-Presenting Oceania Through an Indigenous Lens (Units: 3)
Prerequisite: Upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

Exploration of the notions of authenticity versus intention within films made by and about Pacific Islanders in the diaspora. Investigation of the varying visual narratives, contemporary issues, and re-presentations of Pacific Islanders in film.

RRS 435 National Security and the Racialization of Arabs and Muslims in North America (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4; RRS 100 or ETHS 100; or consent of the instructor.

Examination of how U.S. and Canadian National Security policies have racialized and targeted members of Arab and Muslim communities since September 11, 2001.

RRS 450 Contemporary Arabic and Arab American Literature (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4; upper-division standing; or consent of the instructor.

Contemporary literature from Arab American and Arabic speaking communities and their diasporas. Exploration of the political and cultural context of the Arab region by using poetry and fiction as a foundation.

(This course is offered as RRS 450 and ARAB 450. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

RRS 455 Unfree Labor in Early America (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Area E; or consent of the instructor.

An examination and comparison of various forms of unfree labor in early America from the colonial period to the Civil War, tracing change over time and investigating the relationship among economic systems, ideology, and social relations.

(This course is offered as HIST 473, RRS 473, and LABR 473. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

RRS 460 AIDS and People of Color in the U.S. (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

The political, psychological, social, and economic impact of AIDS/HIV infection on diverse cultural backgrounds. Prevention and educational strategies.

(This course is offered as COUN 450, RRS 460, and SXS 460. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

RRS 473 Unfree Labor in Early America (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Area E; or consent of the instructor.

An examination and comparison of various forms of unfree labor in early America from the colonial period to the Civil War, tracing change over time and investigating the relationship among economic systems, ideology, and social relations.

(This course is offered as HIST 473, RRS 473, and LABR 473. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

RRS 480 Youth Culture, Race and Resistance (Units: 3)
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Surveys how young people of color use popular culture to challenge social inequalities based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class and nationality. Students will gain theoretical tools to analyze youth culture and its relationship to social change.
**RRS 490 Race, Art, and Social Justice (Units: 3)**
Prerequisite: Upper division standing or consent of instructor.

Focus on diverse "art for social change" techniques employed by artists of colors. Diverse mediums are explored, ranging from silkscreen productions to Theatre of the Oppressed and/or Performance Art. (Plus-minus ABC/NC, CR/NC grading only)

**RRS 510 History of Arabic Literature I: Classical Arabic Literature (Units: 3)**
Prerequisite: Four semesters of lower-division Arabic or equivalent or consent of the instructor.

Introduction to major themes and ideas in classical Arabic literature focusing on major poetry and prose works from the pre-Islamic and early Caliphate eras. (This course is offered as ARAB 510 and RRS 510. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

**RRS 511 History of Arabic Literature II: Modern Arabic Literature (Units: 3)**
Prerequisite: Four semesters of lower-division Arabic or equivalent or consent of the instructor.

Introduction to major themes and ideas in modern and contemporary Arabic literature from various countries (e.g., Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Syria, Sudan) focusing on major works from the late 19th century to the present. (This course is offered as ARAB 511 and RRS 511. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

**RRS 520 Race, Radicalism and Revolution (Units: 3)**
Prerequisite: Upper division standing or consent of instructor.

Surveys diverse revolutionary movements and moments; theoretical and practical intersection of race with class, gender, sexuality and national/global oppression; role of culture and consciousness; relationship of "the revolution" to state, meaning of solidarity, leadership models and liberated visions of society/world. [Formerly ETHS 520]

**RRS 566 Gender and Modernity in the Muslim and Arab Worlds (Units: 3)**
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, and A3.

Investigates implications of the project of modernity/modernization for gender and sexuality in the Muslim and Arab worlds. By interrogating dichotomies that oppose tradition to modernity, examines the multifaceted ways in which gender identities are produced historically. [Formerly ETHS 566]

(This course is offered as WGS 566 and RRS 566. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

**RRS 571 Women, Class, and Race (Units: 3)**
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Effects of class division and racism on the experiences, self-images, and social identities of women in U.S. Nature and relationships of the ideologies which underlie these divisions. [CSL may be available]

**RRS 580 Educational Equity (Units: 3)**
Prerequisites: Restricted to upper-division standing; GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4; or consent of the instructor.

Is education the great equalizer? Educational equity and policy issues including institutional racism, school finance, recruitment and retention of under-represented students, and language. [CSL may be available]

(This course is offered as LTNS 580, SOC 580, and RRS 580. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

**RRS 590 Senior Capstone (Units: 3)**
Prerequisite: Restricted to senior Race and Resistance Studies majors.

Synthesis and integration of Race and Resistance Studies coursework. Application of concepts through an individual and/or collaborative senior project. Projects can include research papers, portfolios, or presentations. May include work with community organizations.

**RRS 600 History of People of Color in the U.S. (Units: 3)**
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

History of the U.S. people of color, their experience in the development of American society, from the 1600s to the present. Consequences of domination and racism in thwarting economic interests, and responses to limiting institutional arrangements. (This course is offered as RRS 600 and HIST 466. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)

**RRS 620 Colonialism, Imperialism, and Resistance (Units: 3)**
Prerequisite: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Examination of debates about postcolonial studies and the relevance of such intellectual projects to the socio-cultural experiences in the postcolonial world, such as the production of discourses, identification patterns and collective action among the post-colonized.

**RRS 625 Mixed Race Studies: A Comparative Focus (Units: 3)**
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Introduction to the field of mixed race studies from a comparative and ethnic studies perspective. Exploration of various multicultural issues for ethnic studies from the viewpoint of scholars and cultural expressionists who are themselves of mixed-racial heritage. [Formerly ETHS 625]

**RRS 630 Palestine: Ethnic Studies Perspective (Units: 3)**
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Advanced seminar examines Palestinian diasporic experiences from a historical and comparative perspective. The rise, development, and decline of a Palestinian resistance movement will be the center of analysis. Seminar situated in post-colonial and diaspora/exile studies. [CSL may be available]

**RRS 655 Comparative Border Studies: Palestine and Mexico (Units: 3)**
Prerequisite: ETHS 100 or consent of instructor.

Examination of debates and tensions in border studies utilizing case studies from Palestine and Mexico; focus on the history and development of the walls that U.S. and Israeli government are building and their impact on displacing marginalized communities. [Formerly ETHS 655]

**RRS 657 South Asian Diaspora (Units: 3)**
Prerequisites: GE Areas A1, A2, A3, and B4 or consent of the instructor.

Uses transnational and comparative frameworks to examine South Asian immigration to various countries. How colonialism, nationalism, and the politics of race, gender, class, and sexuality shape diasporic identities and communities. [CSL may be available]

(This course is offered as RRS 657 and AA S 541. Students may not repeat the course under an alternate prefix.)
RRS 694 Community Service Learning: Praxis in Race and Resistance Studies (Units: 1-3)
Prerequisite: Upper-division standing or consent of the instructor.

A community service learning activity course designed to engage students in experiential learning by collaborating with community partners that are involved in struggles for social justice, community empowerment, and equity within and across communities of color. May be repeated for a total of 6 units. [CSL may be available]

RRS 699 Independent Study (Units: 1-3)
Prerequisite: Consent of adviser, instructor, and program coordinator.

Supervised individual study of a particular inter-ethnic problem in ethnic studies. May be repeated for a total of 6 units.