

# Comparative Race Studies

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**The Comparative Race Studies Program has been incorporated into a new program in Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies. Students interested in Comparative Race Studies should consult the Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies section of *Courses & Programs of Study*.**

Through the Comparative Race Studies Program (CRPC), the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture (CSRPC) provides students interested in the study of race and racialized ethnic groups with the opportunity to take courses and participate in programs that illustrate how race and ethnicity and their structural manifestations impact and shape our lives on a daily basis. CSRPC is an interdisciplinary research institution dedicated to promoting engaged scholarship and debate around the topics of race and ethnicity. The focus of CRPC is to expand the study of race and racialized ethnic groups beyond the black/white paradigm and to promote the study of race and processes of racialization in comparative and transnational frameworks.

Each year CRPC offers “Colonizations” (a sequence that meets the general education requirement in civilization studies) as well as courses related to race or ethnicity taught by the CSRPC postdoctoral fellow and artist-in-residence. Additional courses offered through the program will also provide students with an opportunity to explore the social and identity cleavages that exist within racialized communities, acknowledging the reality that race and ethnicity intersect with other primary identities such as gender, class, sexuality, and nationality.

Students interested in the study of race and ethnicity are also encouraged to attend the Reproduction of Race and Racial Ideologies and the Race and Religion: Thought, Practice, and Meaning workshop series, both of which meet four to five times each quarter. The workshops provide a forum for faculty and students to explore the problematics of race and racial ideologies in the modern era. Presenters from a variety of divisions and departments examine issues that cut across academic and policy divisions as well as across disciplinary and national boundaries. In particular, the workshops attract students and faculty from the Division of the Social Sciences (e.g., history, sociology, political science); the Division of the Humanities (e.g., cinema and media studies, English, philosophy); and the professional schools (e.g., business, law, medicine, public policy, social service).

## Faculty

H. Agrama, L. Auslander, R. Austen (Emeritus), L. Berlant, P. Bohlman, D. Borges, T. Brugrea, S. Burns, D. Chakrabarty, K. Charles, K. Choi, Y. Choi, C. Cohen, J. Cole, J. Comaroff, J. L. Comaroff, R. Coronado, J. Dailey, S. Dawdy, M. Dawson, D. English, M. Dietler, C. Evans, K. Fikes, T. Fisher, R. Folgelson, A. Ford, L. Gandhi, M. Gilliam, J. Goldsby, J. A. Goldsmith, R. Gooding-Williams, A. Green, R. Gutiérrez, J. Hevia, T. Holt, D. Hopkins, D. Hutchinson, T. Jackson, R. Jean-Baptiste, W. Johnson, M. Keels, J. Kelly, K. Kim, R. Kittles, E. Kourí, L. Kruger, D. L. Levine (Emeritus), A. Lugo-Ortiz, T. Mah, W. McDade, O. McRoberts, S. Mufwene, D. Norton, E. Oliver, O. Olopade, E. Osborn, S. Palmié, V. Parks, C. Payne, M. Peek, D. Phillips, S. Reddy, F. Richard, G. Miranda Samuels, L. Sanchez-Johnsen, J. Saville, M. Small, M. B. Spencer, M. R. Trouillot, D. Voisin, R. Von Hallberg, K. Warren, T. Zahra

## Courses: Comparative Race Studies (CRPC)

*For an updated list of CRPC courses and other University courses with substantial content on race or ethnicity, visit [csrpc.uchicago.edu](http://csrpc.uchicago.edu).*

**16101-16102-16103. Introduction to Latin American Civilization I, II, III.** (=ANTH 23101-23102-23103, HIST 16101-16102-16103/36101-36102-36103, LACS 16100-16200-16300/34600-34700-34800, SOSC 26100-26200-26300) *This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies.* This course introduces the history and cultures of Latin America (e.g., Mexico, Central America, South America, Caribbean Islands). 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 consideration of the Spanish and Portuguese conquest and the construction of colonial societies in Latin America. 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. Spring Quarter focuses on the twentieth century, with special emphasis on the challenges of economic, political, and social development in the region. *This course is offered every year. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

**20104. Urban Structure and Process.** (=GEOG 22700/32700, SOCI 20104/30104, SOSC 25100) This course reviews competing theories of urban development, especially their ability to explain the changing nature of cities under the impact of advanced industrialism. Analysis includes a consideration of emerging metropolitan regions, the microstructure of local neighborhoods, and the limitations of the past U.S. experience as a way of developing worldwide urban policy. *O. McRoberts. Spring.*

**20204/30204. Women in Modern Africa.** (=GNDR 23502/32600, HIST 20204/30204) This course surveys key themes and debates in twentieth-century colonial and postcolonial African women's history. Exploring both women's history and the history of gender, this course examines shifting conceptualizations of "woman" in diverse case studies and historical contexts across the continent. Topics include sexuality, reproduction, and health; public activism and political

roles; work and economic activity; religion; and policy and the law. Course material includes analyzing historical monographs, fiction, and material culture, as well as a service-learning component with Chicago-based community organizations that focus on advocacy in Africa. *R. Jean-Baptiste. Spring.*

**20701-20702. Introduction to African Civilization I, II.** (=AFAM 20701-20702, ANTH 20701-20702, CHDV 21401 [20702], HIST 10101-10102, SOSC 22500-22600) *Completion of the general education requirement in social sciences recommended. Taking these courses in sequence is recommended but not required. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies.* This year the African Civilization Sequence focuses primarily on the colonial encounter, with some attention, in the second quarter, to everyday life in the contemporary period. The first quarter focuses on West, North, and Central Africa. The second quarter focuses on Eastern and Southern Africa, including Madagascar. We explore various aspects of how the colonial encounter transformed local societies, even as indigenous African social structures profoundly molded and shaped these diverse processes. Topics include the institution of colonial rule, independence movements, ethnicity and interethnic violence, ritual and the body, love, marriage, money, and popular culture. *R. Jean-Baptiste, Autumn; J. Cole, Winter.*

**21201. Intensive Study of a Culture: Chicago Blues.** (=ANTH 21201) This course is an anthropological and historical exploration of one of the most original and influential American musical genres in its social and cultural context. We examine transformations in the cultural meaning of the blues and its place within broader American cultural currents, the social and economic situation of blues musicians, and the political economy of blues within the wider music industry. *M. Dietler. Not offered 2009–10; will be offered 2010–11.*

**21202. Intensive Study of A Culture: Louisiana.** (=ANTH 21202) Louisiana is home to Cajun music, Creole food, and the Yat dialect, as well as some of the most impressive prehistoric mound sites in North America. This course offers an archaeological, historical, and ethnographic introduction to Louisiana's complex culture. We focus on the ways in which race, ethnicity, and identity are constructed within and about Louisiana. *S. Dawdy. Not offered 2009–10; will be offered 2010–11.*

**21217. Intensive Study of a Culture: The Luo of Kenya.** (=AFAM 21217, ANTH 21217) This course is an overview of the history and contemporary culture of the Luo, a Nilotic-speaking people living on the shores of Lake Victoria. We examine the migration of the Luo into the region, the history of their encounter with British colonialism, and their evolving situation within the postcolonial Kenyan state. We also use the wide variety of studies of the Luo to illuminate transformations in the nature of ethnographic research and representations. *M. Dietler. Not offered 2009–10; will be offered 2010–11.*

**21255. Intensive Study of a Culture: The Senegambia.** (=AFAM 21255, ANTH 21255) This course offers an overview of history, culture, and society in

the Senegambia, a territory situated between the Senegal and Gambia Rivers, and roughly corresponding to the political boundaries of modern-day Senegal. We examine the region in broad historical perspective, beginning with oral accounts of migration and state formation, and tracking the gradual entanglement of local societies with global political economic forces during the Atlantic era, transition to the legitimate trade, French colonialism, and road to political independence. The focus of the last portion of the course is on cultural, artistic, and political experiences in the postcolonial state of Senegal. *F. Richard. Not offered 2009–10; will be offered 2010–11.*

**22200. African American Politics.** (=PLSC 22100) This course explores both the historical and contemporary political behavior of African Americans, examining the multitude of ways in which African Americans have engaged in politics and political struggle in the United States. To understand different approaches to the liberation of black people, we pay special attention to the attitudes, world views, and ideologies that structure and influence African American political behavior. An analysis of difference and stratification in black communities and its resulting impact on political ideologies and mobilization is a crucial component of this course. We consistently seek to situate the politics of African Americans in the larger design we call American politics. *C. Cohen. Spring.*

**22500/31700. Slavery and Unfree Labor.** (=ANTH 22205/31700) This course offers a concise overview of institutions of dependency, servitude, and coerced labor in Europe and Africa, from Roman times to the onset of the Atlantic slave trade, and compares their further development (or decline) in the context of the emergence of New World plantation economies based on racial slavery. We discuss the role of several forms of unfreedom and coerced labor in the making of the “modern world,” and reflect on the manner in which ideologies and practices associated with the idea of a free labor market supersede, or merely mask, relations of exploitation and restricted choice. *S. Palmié. Not offered 2009–10; will be offered 2010–11.*

**24001-24002-24003. Colonizations I, II, III.** (=ANTH 18301-18302-18303, HIST 18301-18302-18303, SOSC 24001-24002-24003) *PQ: These courses must be taken in sequence. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies.* This three-quarter sequence approaches the concept of civilization from an emphasis on cross-cultural/societal connection and exchange. We explore the dynamics of conquest, slavery, colonialism, and their reciprocal relationships with concepts such as resistance, freedom, and independence, with an eye toward understanding their interlocking role in the making of the modern world. Themes of slavery, colonization, and the making of the Atlantic world are covered in the first quarter. Modern European and Japanese colonialism in Asia and the Pacific is the theme of the second quarter. The third quarter considers the processes and consequences of decolonization both in the newly independent nations and the former colonial powers. *S. Palmié, Autumn; F. Richard, K. Fikes, S. Burns, S. Dawdy, J. Saville, Winter; K. Fikes, D. Chakrabarty, Spring.*

**24140. Qualitative Field Methods.** (=SOCI 20140) This course introduces techniques of, and approaches to, ethnographic field research. We emphasize the 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. *O. McRoberts. Winter.*

**24300. American Law and the Rhetoric of Race.** (=LAWS 59800, LLSO 24300) This course examines the ways American law has treated legal issues involving race. Two episodes are studied in detail: the criminal law of slavery during the antebellum period and the constitutional attack on state-imposed segregation in the twentieth century. The case method is used, although close attention is paid to litigation strategy and judicial opinion. *D. Hutchinson. Spring.*

**24306. Asian American Poetry.** (=ENGL 24306) This course is a reading the work of Asian American poets who forego received lyric forms, genres, and styles in the search for a new literary idiom capable of investigating their own unique trans-national historical moment. We focus on the work of "experimental" writers (e.g., Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, John Yau, Mei Mei Berssenbrugge) and texts by emerging poets (e.g., Shanxing Wang's *Mad Science in Imperial City*, Tan Lin's *Lotion Bullwhip Giraffe*). Topics include representations of war (e.g., the conflict in Vietnam, the Korean War); the notion of formal mastery as cultural assimilation; and the relationship between Asian American experimental poetics and West Coast Language writing. *S. Reddy. Spring.*

**24511-24512/34501-34502. Anthropology of Museums I, II.** (=ANTH 24511-24512/34501-34502, CHDV 38101-38102, MAPS 34500-34600, SOSC 34500-34600) *PQ: Advanced standing and consent of instructor.* This sequence examines museums from a variety of perspectives. We consider the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the image and imagination of African American culture as presented in local museums, and museums as memorials as exemplified by Holocaust exhibitions. Several visits to area museums required. *R. Fogelson, M. Fred. Winter, Spring.*

**24601. Martin and Malcolm: Life and Belief.** (=AFAM 24601, RLST 24601) This course examines the religious, social, cultural, political, and personal factors behind the two most prominent public leaders and public intellectuals emerging from the African American community in the 1950s and 1960s: Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. We review their autobiographies, domestic trends within the United States, and larger international forces operating during their times to ask what their lives can tell us about America during one of the most dynamic periods in the nation's personality metamorphosis. We screen documentary videos of their speeches and of the social contexts in which they lived. *D. Hopkins. Winter.*

**26000. Race and Politics.** (=AFAM 26000, PLSC 26000) This course explores how race, both historically and currently, influences politics in the United States.

For example, is there something unique about the politics of African Americans? Does the idea and lived experience of whiteness shape one's political behavior? Throughout the quarter, students interrogate the way scholars, primarily in the field of American politics, have ignored, conceptualized, measured, modeled, and sometimes fully engaged the concept of race. We examine the multiple manifestations of race in the political domain, both as it functions alone and as it intersects with other identities (e.g., gender, class, sexuality). *M. Dawson. Winter.*

**26200/36200. Practices of Othering and the Logic of Human Rights Violations: Race, Eugenics, and Crowds.** (=ANTH 25220/35220, CHDV 26301, HIST 25006/35006, HMRT 26300/36300) How are mass violations of human rights thought up? What scientific theories and political doctrines have been invented and implemented to justify genocide and mass incarceration? These questions serve as our starting point for the course where through an exploration of different political ideologies and scientific theories we learn how human rights violations were reasoned and justified. Readings of both primary and secondary sources in the first part of the course present theories and ideologies that have informed and set the ground for human rights violations. In the second part of the course we focus on the aftermath of genocide and killing and ask how individuals and groups explain their participation in these acts. *N. Vaisman. Winter.*

**27200/37200. African American History to 1877.** (=HIST 27200/37200, LLSO 26901) This lecture course examines selected topics in the African American experience from the slave trade to slavery emancipation. Each lecture focuses on a specific problem of interpretation in African American history, all framed by an overall theme: the "making" of an African American people out of diverse ethnic groups brought together under conditions of extreme oppression; and its corollary, the structural constraints and openings for resistance to that oppression. Readings emphasize primary sources, especially autobiographical materials, supplemented by readings in important secondary sources. *T. Holt. Autumn.*

**27300/37300. African American History since 1877.** (=HIST 27300/37300, LLSO 28800) This course explores in a comparative framework the historical forces that shaped the work, culture, and political struggles of African American people in the United States from the end of American Reconstruction to the present. *T. Holt. Winter.*

**27301. Introduction to Black Chicago, 1895 to 2005.** (=AFAM 27305, HIST 27301, LLSO 22210) This course surveys the history of African Americans in Chicago, from before the twentieth century to the present. Themes include migration and its impact, origins and effects of class stratification, relation of culture and cultural endeavor to collective consciousness, rise of the institutionalized religions, facts and fictions of political empowerment, and the correspondence of black lives and living to indices of city wellness. Texts include autobiography and poetry, sociology, documentary photography, political science, and criminology, as well as more straightforward historical analysis. *A. Green. Autumn.*

**27305. Race from Tundra to Steppe: Ethnicity, Gender, and Environment in Russian/Soviet Eurasia.** (=HIST 23906, GNDR 27303, EUR 27305) In this class we explore the history of race and ethnicity in the non-European areas of Russia/the USSR through discussion of selected scholarly articles, memoirs and travel accounts, novels, and films. Topics include eighteenth-century Russian encounters with native Siberians; environmental difference and racial tension in colonized Turkestan; the Soviet state and Central Asian women; Soviet deportations of ethnic Koreans; representations and realities of the USSR's relationship with African Americans and Africans; and gender, nature, and indigenous culture in Siberia over the last one hundred years. *J. Fein. Winter.*

**27500/37500. Language and Globalization.** (=ANTH 27705/47905, BPRO 24500, LING 27500/37500) *PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing.* Distinguishing myths from facts, this course articulates the different meanings of *globalization*, anchors them in a long history of socioeconomic colonization, and highlights the specific ways in which the phenomena it names have affected the structures and vitalities of languages around the world. We learn about the dynamics of population contact and their impact on the evolution of languages. *S. Mufwene, W. Wimsatt. Not offered 2009–10; will be offered 2010–11.*

**27600. Interdisciplinary Research Methods for Race and Ethnic Studies.** *Recommended for students in interdisciplinary programs who are interested in researching topics that focus on race and ethnicity.* This course is designed to introduce students to a range of qualitative research methods and to help determine which method would fit a research project of their own design in the field of race and ethnic studies. It functions as a research workshop in which students identify a research topic, develop a research question, and explore a range of methods that may or may not be appropriate for the research project. Students read each other's work and work through ideas that can serve as the proposal for a BA project. *K. Fikes. Autumn.*

**28108. Housing Segregation in the United States.** (=HIST 27105, PBPL 27105) This course examines the historical development of racially segregated metropolitan areas in the United States from the end of the nineteenth century to the present. We look at the historical roots of division along lines of race and class in spatial, as well as economic and cultural, terms. We discuss the impact of various phenomena (e.g., migration, economic shifts, housing legislation, changing social and cultural ideals) and notions of the "American dream." Our explorations cover metropolitan areas across the country, but include a special focus on the Midwest in general and Chicago in particular. *T. Mah. Winter.*

**28112. Asian Americans and the Legacies of War.** (=HIST 27604) This course explores the ways in which U.S. wars in Asia have transformed Asian-American social, economic, political, and cultural life in the United States. Focusing on the impact of political conflicts on communities in the United States rather than on geopolitical relations, the course opens up discussions of migration, citizenship, U.S. imperialism, nationalism, neo- and post-colonialism, and the production and use of racial representations in political conflict. We trace Asian-



American histories and experiences through the Philippine-American War, World War II, the Korean War, wars in Southeast Asia, and the post-9/11 period. We also examine topics such as race, gender, national identity, power, violence, and cultural production within specific historical contexts. *Autumn. T. Mah.*

**28181. The Historiography of Asian American Studies.** (=HIST 28501) This course is designed to be both an introduction to the field and an opportunity to examine the forty-year history of scholarship in Asian American studies and its future direction. We familiarize ourselves with some of the classic texts in Asian American studies (including documentary films), identifying various approaches and debates, while also carefully considering historical contexts in which the works were produced. Readings alternate between historical narrative and theoretical works meant to provide the tools with which to think about how historical narratives are constructed. *T. Mah. Spring.*

**29700. Reading and Research: Comparative Race Studies.** *PQ: Consent of instructor and undergraduate program coordinator. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

**29800. Comparative Race Studies in Context: Service Learning/Internship Credit.** *PQ: Consent of Director of Undergraduate Studies required. Open to all students accepted into an internship program or placement at a nonprofit organization, government agency, or other community-based context. Students must make arrangements with the undergraduate program chair before beginning the internship and submit a College Reading and Research Course Form. For summer internships, students must submit this paperwork by the end of Spring Quarter and register for the course the following Autumn Quarter. For internships during the academic year, students should meet with the undergraduate program chair as soon as possible before the beginning of the internship and before the beginning of the quarter when credit is to be earned. This course provides students with the opportunity to reflect on their experiences working within a community context, especially as it relates to structures of racial inequality in American society or in a broader global context. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

**36700. Archeology of Race and Ethnicity.** (=ANTH 36700) *PQ: Consent of instructor.* The correlation between ethnic groups and patterns in material culture lies at the heart of many archaeological problems. Over the last several years, a new emphasis on the social construction of racial and ethnic identities has invited a re-examination of the ways in which aspects of the material world (i.e., architecture, pottery, food, clothing) may participate actively in the dialectical process of creating or obscuring difference. This seminar surveys historical debates and engages with current theoretical discussions within archaeology concerning race and ethnicity in complex societies. *S. Dawdy. Not offered 2009–10; will be offered 2010–11.*