In this course we will explore ethnicity and race in the United States by examining our own experiences as well as literary and scholarly explorations of the concepts. Our goal will be to develop a critical framework that will help us better understand our multicultural society. Questions we will consider include: What is race? What is ethnicity? How does ethnicity relate to race? What is ethnic studies? How are ethnicity and race perceived in America? What constitutes membership in an ethnic group? How have concepts of, policies toward, and treatment of ethnic groups changed over time? How do authors explore, express, extend and resist notions of ethnicity and race in literary, scholarly, and documentary works? How can considering these works help us understand better America's past, present and future?

*This course satisfies the Domestic Diversity Requirement and the Humanities Foundation Credit Requirement.
The basic premise of this course is that the notion of a hybrid identity, such as Arab-American is a post-colonial phenomenon, based upon the politics of colonization, nationalism, and the development of the modern nation-state. We will explore the expression of that identity as it evolves over the course of the twentieth century, comparing and contrasting the experience of individuals from different locales, ages, and genders. Memory, home, and identity as expressed in poetry, autobiography, and fiction will be recurring themes for discussion. We will contrast those images with representations of Arabs in mainstream media, Hollywood cinema, and popular culture. Finally we will examine 9/11 as a pivotal moment in the creation and expression of Arab-American identity.

Films and TV Will Include:

- The Immigrant, 1917
- The Sheik, 1921
- The Mummy, 1932
- Aladdin, 1992
- Little Mosque on the Prairie, 2007
- Amreeka, 2009

This course satisfies the Humanities Foundation Credit Requirement