

Introduction to Ethnic Studies

ETHN 2001 (HU). 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?

Required Textbooks:

Skerrett, James, ed. *Literature, Race, and Ethnicity: Contesting American Identities*. New York: Longman, 2002.

Alexie, Sherman. *Flight*. New York: Black Cat, 2007.

Other texts and films include selected essays and short stories, *My Family/Mi Familia*, *The Cats of Mirikitani*, *Smoke Signal*.

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