

ETH 100
Ethnic & Indigenous Lives
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Louis Mendoza, PhD

Contact Info: louis.g.mendoza@asu.edu

Office Hours: Thursday 9:00-11:00 and by appointment via Zoom

Course and Faculty Information

Course Description: This course undertakes an introductory comparative analysis of ethnic groups to understand cultural diversity within the United States. In this course, you will have the opportunity to learn basic concepts and theoretical frameworks shaping the interdisciplinary field of ethnic studies. As we explore the guiding questions listed below, we will pay special attention to the interplay of race and ethnicity with class, as well as other axes of stratification. Emphasis will be placed on the study of race, ethnicity, and culture in their historical context. We will explore the values, assumptions, and philosophical concepts that have informed the development of “ethnicity” in the U.S. The textbooks and other required readings, the lectures, power points, films, and links to various resources will provide you with perspectives on the study of race and ethnicity and are designed to introduce you to an array of issues and critical concepts, including colonization, racism, immigration, assimilation, discrimination, and the politics of identity. The primary goal of this course is to familiarize students with paradigms and theories in the field of ethnic studies.

The guiding questions addressed in this class include, but are not limited to, are:

- How are “race” and ethnicity defined, and why is the study of ethnicity important in contemporary society?
- What is meant by the notion that race is “socially constructed?” How have scholars defined racism?
- How are race and ethnicity tied to “power” and the existence of social stratification?
- How can we develop an understanding of individual lives, the role and place of race and ethnicity in shaping their life experiences, and how they are tied to issues of power, ideology, and contestation over both scarce and abundant resources?

Course Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an introductory-level of knowledge of various theoretical concepts, ideas, and frameworks in the study of race, ethnicity, and indigeneity.
2. Demonstrate critical thinking skills with respect to how “race” is socially constructed.
3. Appreciate how racial/ethnic lives are shaped structurally, culturally, and politically in the context of the United States.

Textbooks

For this class we will be using SkyePack, an external online resource of learning materials that was created under my supervision. You will receive an email with instructions on how to purchase access to the learning materials before the first week of class.

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Watch for an invite to your Course Resource from Skyepack.
2. Go to www.skyepack.com
3. Click on “Create Account”. Make sure you are using your university/school-assigned email address (the address on record with your instructor).
4. Skyepack will send you an automated invitation & verification email to the address used to create your account. Please check this email to Verify Your Account.
5. Go to www.skyepack.com, login, and click on “GET PACK”.
6. Don’t see your pack? Click on, “Help me find my course content”, and our support team will help you.

You have the option of purchasing directly from the Skyepack digital storefront, OR you can go through the ASU bookstore for scholarship reasons, or should you need to utilize financial aid. When you purchase an access code through the bookstore, the purchase is subject to markup

Course Access

Your ASU courses can be accessed by both my.asu.edu and asu.instructure.com; bookmark both in the event that one site is down.

Computer Requirements

This is a fully online course; therefore, it requires a computer with internet access and the following technologies:

- Web browsers ([Chrome](#), [Mozilla Firefox](#), or [Safari](#))
- [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) (free)
- [Adobe Flash Player](#) (free)
- Webcam, microphone, headset/earbuds, and speaker
- Microsoft Office ([Microsoft 365 is free](#) for all currently-enrolled ASU students)
- Reliable broadband internet connection (DSL or cable) to stream videos.

Note: A smartphone, iPad, Chromebook, etc. will not be sufficient for completing your work in ASU Online courses. While you will be able to access course content with mobile devices, you must use a computer for all assignments, quizzes, and virtual labs.

Student Success

To be successful:

- check the course daily
- read announcements
- read and respond to course email messages as needed
- complete assignments by the due dates specified
- communicate regularly with your instructor and peers
- create a study and/or assignment schedule to stay on track
- access [ASU Online Student Resources](#)

Basic Ground Rules are established in order to create an atmosphere that encourages participation and demonstrates respect for dialogue. This course is designed to stimulate and cultivate critical thinking and writing skills. Because students are encouraged to express their opinions, the Discussion Board Forums may at times become polemical, politically engaged and, to some, may even appear to be contentious. Therefore, everyone must take extra care to be cordial and tolerant of the views expressed by the authors and participants. We must all respect the fact that many of us will have different relationships with the course material.

- We are all knowledgeable in different ways. Everyone is an expert on something. We all have something to teach and something to learn.
- No one is to be blamed for the circumstances of their social locations that are beyond their control. Neither should we be blamed for simply repeating misinformation (without malice) that we have learned in our various social locations. But we can hold each other responsible for repeating misinformation after we have learned otherwise.
- Everyone should be encouraged to rethink the assumptions and knowledge you bring into the classroom. Learning requires an open mind and an open heart.
- We should respect everyone's knowledge and experience. We will never demean or trivialize anyone's experience in the world.
- We welcome critical feedback and suggestions for this course as they arise.

Grading

Your grade will be a composite of the assignments listed below:

5 Quizzes at 40 pts each	200 pts
Yellow Dig Discussion Participation	350 pts
(Seven Yellow Dig discussions @50 pts)	
Film Review	150 pts
<u>Final Assignment</u>	<u>300 pts</u>

Total **1000 pts**

Your grade will be determined based on the following grading schema:

A+	100% - 97%
A	<97-94%
A-	<94-90%
B+	<90-87%
B	<87-84%
B-	<84-80%
C+	<80-77%
C	<77-70%
D	<70-60%
E	<60%

Submitting Assignments

All assignments, unless otherwise announced, MUST be submitted to the designated area of Canvas. Do not submit an assignment via email.

Assignment due dates follow Arizona Standard time. Click the following link to access the [Time Converter](#) to ensure you account for the difference in Time Zones. Note: Arizona does not observe daylight savings time.

Grading Procedure

Grades reflect your performance on assignments and adherence to deadlines. Grades on assignments will be available within 84 hours of the due date in the Gradebook.

Late or Missed Assignments

Notify the instructor **BEFORE** an assignment is due if an urgent situation arises and you are unable to submit the assignment on time.

Follow the appropriate University policies to request an [accommodation for religious practices](#) or to accommodate a missed assignment [due to University-sanctioned activities](#).

Communicating With the Instructor

Community Forum

This course uses a discussion topic called "Community Forum" for general questions and comments about the course. Before posting a question or comment, check the syllabus, announcements, and existing posts to ensure it's not redundant. You are encouraged to respond to the questions of your classmates.

Email questions of a personal nature to your instructor. You can expect a response within 72 hours.

Chat

The Chat tool in Canvas allows students and teachers to interact in real time. Use Chat only for informal course-related conversations unless your instructor informs you otherwise. Chat is not ideal for questions about assignments; instructors are not required to monitor it, and conversations may be buried or lost.

Email

ASU email is an [official means of communication](#) among students, faculty, and staff. Students are expected to read and act upon email in a timely fashion. Students bear the responsibility of missed messages and should check their ASU-assigned email regularly.

All instructor correspondence will be sent to your ASU email account.

ASU Online Course Policies

View the [ASU Online Course Policies](#)

Accessibility Statements

View the [ASU Online Student Accessibility](#) page to review accessibility statements for common tools and resources used in ASU Online courses.

If any other tools are used in this course, links to the accessibility statements will be listed below this sentence.

Syllabus Disclaimer

The syllabus is a statement of intent and serves as an implicit agreement between the instructor and the student. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule, but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. Remember to check your ASU email and the course site often.

Schedule - Readings and Assignments

Below is a course calendar. Although the dates are established here, it is best to remain active in the weekly modules as that is where all assignment details and expectations will be posted.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Fri Mar 17, 2023	Quiz 1: Syllabus Quiz	due by 11:59pm
Sat Mar 25, 2023	Quiz 2: Key Concepts	due by 11:59pm
Sat Apr 8, 2023	Quiz 3: Slavery, Annexation, and Immigration	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 14, 2023	Quiz 4: Modules 4 and 5	due by 11:59pm
Sat Apr 15, 2023	Assignment Film Review Due	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 21, 2023	Quiz 5	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 27, 2023	Assignment Discussion 6: Final Course Reflection	due by 11:59pm
Mon May 1, 2023	Assignment Final Assignment Submission	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 3, 2023	Assignment Yellow Dig: Modules 1 - 7 (350 Points)	due by 11:59pm

NOTE: There are a total of seven discussion forums in Yellow Dig which you must participate in to receive credit. Refer to Canvas for details on topics and due dates.