

Alternative Proposal for a Required Course on Racism, Colonialism, Antiracism, and Decolonization (Proposal S-6)

Submitted by:

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Rationale for the Proposal

- Our proposal attempts to ensure that every Cornell student has a class with a professor for whom teaching about racism, sexism, and other forms of institutionalized inequality is their reason for being at Cornell.
- Faculty in our units were hired, tenured, promoted and asked to lead based on our expertise. We are committed to employing it in service to this institution in this antiracism effort.
- Our faculty have the specific pedagogical experience necessary to teach these difficult and delicate subjects.
- We believe that academic rigor is best achieved through the specifics outlined in our proposal. We do not see a separation between “literacy” and “skills.”
- Our proposals seek resources to strengthen our units, rather than leaving them in their current marginalized and overburdened condition.

Specifics of the Proposal

- Our approach culminates in a plan to offer a large-enrollment course to many students on campus. This eventually may serve as the sole means to fulfill the “required course” function, or be one option from a menu of courses.
- This will need to be developed gradually and resources will need to be provided.
- Representatives from our six units, alongside officers from the proposed Antiracism Center, will evaluate any additions to the list of approved courses.

Proposed Timeline

- Fall 2021 and Spring 2022:
 - Interested students directed to a menu of relevant introductory courses taught by our units
 - A series of public presentations on racism, colonialism, antiracism, and decolonization – similar to “Racism in America” panel series, in various formats
- Fall 2022: Exploratory pilot large-enrollment in person course, ideally six-way team taught
 - All classroom segments recorded, since six-way team teaching unlikely to be repeated
 - Videos as “place-holder” content, to be replaced with higher-quality versions shot in studios or in pertinent locations
- Spring 2023: second iteration of exploratory course
- Fall 2023 and beyond: Full version of large-enrollment course, offered each semester

Roster of Introductory Courses

- AAS 1100: Introduction to Asian American Studies
- AAS 2130/AMST 2640/HIST 2640: Introduction to Asian American History
- AAS 2620/AMST 2620/ENGL 2620: Introduction to Asian American Literature

- AIIS 1100 / AMST 1600 / ANTHR 1700: Indigenous North America
- AIIS 1101 / AMST 1601: Indigenous Issues in Global Perspective
- AIIS 2100: Indigenous Ingenuities as Living Networks
- AIIS/ANTHR 2XXX: From the Swampy Land: Indigenous Peoples of the Ithaca Area

- AMST 1101: Introduction to American Studies

- ASRC 1500: Introduction to Africana Studies

- FGSS 2010: Introduction to Feminist, Gender & Sexuality Studies
- LGBT 2290: Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies
- FGSS 2421: Worlding Sex and Gender

- LSP 2100 Introduction to Latina/o/x Studies
- LSP 1802/ HIST 1802/AMST 1802: Introduction to Latinos in US History
- LSP 2720/PMA2720: Introduction to Latina/o/x Performance
- LSP 2400 /ENGL 2400/AMST 2401: Introduction to Latina/o Literature