

## Course Opportunities: Week of October 31st 2022

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## American Studies Minor

**The minor in American Studies is designed to help students write and communicate more clearly, especially those students in large social science and science programs.** It will also encourage students to take advantage of one of largest and most diverse course curricula available anywhere in the world as well as learn to think deeply about issues and commitments arising from their work in their major programs in light of the specific American contexts of culture, politics, policy, forms of media, and so on. A minor in American Studies will culminate with a "capstone" project to be completed in a seminar course taught by AS affiliated faculty, where students will research and write (and in some cases, web publish or present in public venues) in-depth "features" aimed at communicating ideas and scholarship to a wide audience.

For more information, please visit [our website](#) and contact me if you have questions.

## New Class for Spring 2023 - ISF 110: Climate Change

ISF 110: Climate Change

TTH 9:30-11AM

Evans 31

4 Units

Class Number: 27416

<https://classes.berkeley.edu/content/2023-spring-isf-110-001-lec-001>

### Course Description:

Climate change has appeared as the biggest existential threat to humanity and despite the increasing recognition of this crisis, climate change education, research, policy, and action are largely organized in a narrow and linear fashion. Much focus is on the understanding of its physical processes, documentation of rising carbon emissions, and collecting empirical evidence of a changing climate with “business-as-usual” policy options, technocratic solutions, and consumer-centric behavioral interventions to reduce emissions or promote adaptation. As we are increasingly exposed to more frequent and devastating climate events, we recognize the inadequacy of these policy options and interventions. Additionally, the current setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions further expose the failure and limitations of our global institutions. This course offers students an interdisciplinary understanding of the historical, social, political, psychological, philosophical, spiritual, and cultural dimensions of the issue to help transformative action.

## HUM R1B: A New R&C Course for Spring 2023

New Spring R&C Course: HUM R1B

The Arts & Humanities Division is excited to announce a new reading & composition course. HUM R1B: Global Humanities combines a high-enrollment lecture component, taught by a distinguished faculty member, with small reading- and writing-intensive sections that meet the R&C requirement and are taught by graduate student instructors (GSIs). This spring, [HUM R1B: Ideas of the West](#) will be taught this spring by Professor Chenxi Tang (German) and has a capacity of 51 students. A full description can be found below:

*“The West” belongs to the most widely used keywords in public discourse worldwide. But what does “the West” mean? This intensive reading and writing course approaches this question through three spatio-temporal modules: The Making of the West in Time, dealing with some key moments in the formation of the idea of the West in Europe from antiquity to the early twentieth century; One West, Multiple East, dealing with various articulations of “the West” as a comparative and often polemical concept in twentieth-century Asia and Africa, and finally The Global Present, dealing with “the West” as a shorthand for a set of often contested values in the global present shaped by geopolitical tensions, migratory flows, and environmental crisis. Readings include literature, philosophy, and cultural criticism from multiple traditions and across the ages, selected to familiarize students with historical and cross-cultural modes of thinking. At the same time, students will learn to develop their writing skills by engaging with imaginative, expository, and argumentative texts.*

*The course fulfills the goals of the second half of the reading and composition requirement (R1B). Success in this course depends upon deep reading, ongoing participation, and steady commitment to the composition and revision of two progressively longer research essays.*

## The Course Threads Certificate Program



### Course Threads at UC Berkeley

**COURSE THREADS** allow Berkeley undergraduates to explore intellectual themes connecting courses across departments and disciplines, without creating new majors or minors. Course Threads help students develop a breadth and depth of knowledge in particular topics.

During their studies, students complete three courses tagged in the course catalog as belonging to a particular Course Thread. After participating in a one-time seminar at the Townsend Center, students receive a certificate of completion.

**Humanities & Environment**

**Culture & Globalization**

**Law & Humanities**

**Human Rights**

**Sciences & Society**

**Historical & Modern City**

**Technologies of Writing**

**Carceral Geographies**

**Visual Cultures**

[coursethreads.berkeley.edu](https://coursethreads.berkeley.edu)

**TOWNSEND CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES**

