

Interdisciplinary Studies - Mills College at Northeastern (INMI)

INMI 1051. Introduction to Ethnic Studies. (4 Hours)

Introduces students to the field of Ethnic Studies for students interested in learning about race, racial inequality, and social justice. Provides students with the theoretical and analytical tools to understand, deconstruct, and apply theories of race and ethnicity. Deeply reviews the historical context in which Ethnic Studies emerged as an academic discipline. In examining the major theories and concerns of Ethnic Studies and in particular the origins of racism and the relationship between academic learning and community activism, students are offered the opportunity to investigate the intersections of race, class, gender, and other axes of difference in shaping identities and political/structural conflict.

Attribute(s): NUpath Difference/Diversity, NUpath Societies/Institutions, NUpath Writing Intensive

INMI 1100. Problem Solving for a Sustainable Future. (4 Hours)

Presents a skills-based, interdisciplinary introduction to sustainable problem solving. Explores foundational problem-solving competencies and applies them to real-world case studies that investigate the interconnectedness of social, economic, and environmental systems. Studies how to analyze complex problems and propose actionable solutions that promote resilience, well-being, justice, and balance across communities, institutions, and ecosystems.

Attribute(s): NUpath Difference/Diversity, NUpath Societies/Institutions

INMI 1802. Gentrification and Strategies of Community Preservation. (4 Hours)

Delves into effective strategies employed by communities and city planners to mitigate the adverse impacts of gentrification. Explores the root causes and repercussions of gentrification, along with community-driven solutions and policy interventions. Focuses on the city of Oakland, emphasizing the intersection of race and the contentious relationship between gentrification and displacement. Addresses various forms of stratification associated with gentrification including class inequality, escalating housing costs, homelessness, and their interconnectedness with market forces and urban planning. Scrutinizes Oakland's decline and redevelopment within a broader structural context, contextualizing its gentrification process in relation to analogous trends observed in numerous cities across the United States and globally. Accentuates entrepreneurial approaches to addressing these issues.

Attribute(s): NUpath Difference/Diversity, NUpath Societies/Institutions

INMI 1803. Technologies of Race and Gender. (4 Hours)

Presents an interdisciplinary U.S.-based study of technologies that develop and function, over time, to create, maintain, and enforce ideas about race and gender. Explores an understanding of these mutually informed systems of knowledge as technologies with both positive and harmful ideological and material effects. Topics include shifts in scientific and medical thinking, the rise in social scientific thought, trends in popular cultural representations, modes of state surveillance, and the contemporary rise of data science. Examines complex consequences of these technologies alongside critical responses, and resistance to, these forms of power. Builds on large-scale and national historical overview to consider case studies drawn from Bay Area political, social, and cultural histories. Culminates with group projects focused on complex, present-day intersections of race, gender, and technology.

INMI 1877. Race, Public Health, and Storytelling. (4 Hours)

Explores the interrelated topics of race, policy, and storytelling in public health contexts. Investigates how narratives inform policymaking, racial implications within social problem conditions, and draws connections to public policy outcomes. Examines the role of storytelling for analyzing and presenting these topics. Offers students an opportunity to explore and generate diverse and creative policy solutions through their deep reflection and analysis of race relations and conditions, health policymaking, and storytelling practices.

Attribute(s): NUpath Difference/Diversity, NUpath Societies/Institutions

INMI 2126. Theories of Race and Ethnicity. (4 Hours)

Exposes students to the cutting edge of critical thinking around issues of race and ethnicity. Examines how to unpack "commonsense" ideas about race and inequality. Uses theory as a tool to offer students an opportunity to develop critical thinking, a new vocabulary, and a framework for understanding the history and contemporary impact of race within the United States and in a global context. Analyzes how race has been theorized by a range of thinkers, and explores new knowledge about the interactions between race, ethnicity, immigration, gender, class, and sexuality. As a final project, students articulate their own intellectual and activist calling and consider how theory can inform their academic, political, and personal futures.

Prerequisite(s): INMI 1051 with a minimum grade of C

Attribute(s): NUpath Difference/Diversity, NUpath Societies/Institutions, NUpath Writing Intensive

INMI 2183. Interdisciplinary Special Topics: Pop-up Course. (1 Hour)

Addresses timely trends, issues, and events as they unfold. Offers students an opportunity to learn about and respond to issues of the day in an immersive, interdisciplinary, short-course format. Content and instructors vary by offering. May be repeated twice.

INMI 2220. Women, Gender, and Cultural Production in the Global South. (4 Hours)

Explores the intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality, power, and resistance. Critically engages students with cultural productions in the Global South. Studies the intellectual and social roots of cultural systems and the relationship between culture, gender, identity, and social change. Examines how various cultural mediums reject and resist identity, social change, and structural injustices. Analyzes transnational cultural dynamics by emphasizing the role of gender and sexuality in shaping cultural narratives and their societal impacts. Major topics include hijra activism and transgender identity, Dalit testimonials, antiwar documentary filmmaking, indigenous history, docudrama, grassroots organization, and decolonial artistic resistance.

Attribute(s): NUpath Difference/Diversity, NUpath Interpreting Culture

INMI 2300. Systematic Botany. (4 Hours)

Introduces the evolutionary history and diversity of plants, including phylogenetics, classification, taxonomy, nomenclature, biogeography and evolutionary processes (speciation and convergence) as they relate to angiosperms (flowering plants), gymnosperms (cone-bearing plants), seedless vascular plants (ferns), and nonvascular plants (mosses, liverworts, hornworts). Practices the use of the tools of systematics (including the use of dichotomous keys) and interpretation of phylogenetic trees.

Prerequisite(s): BIOL 1107 with a minimum grade of D- or BIOL 1111 with a minimum grade of D- or BIOL 1113 with a minimum grade of D- or EEMB 1101 with a minimum grade of D- or EEMB 1105 with a minimum grade of D- or EEMB 2302 with a minimum grade of D- or EEMB 2400 with a minimum grade of D-

Corequisite(s): INMI 2301

Attribute(s): NUpath Natural/Designed World

INMI 2301. Lab for INMI 2300. (1 Hour)

Accompanies INMI 2300. Focuses on application and practice of ideas presented in lecture as students practice and develop the skills of systematics, master the vocabulary of botany, and analyze data and draw appropriate, evidence-based conclusions from the published literature.

Corequisite(s): INMI 2300

INMI 2321. Research Methods in Sociology. (4 Hours)

Introduces students to the range of research methods used by sociologists. Covers experimental research, field research, survey research, and historical-comparative research. Discusses sampling, the rules of evidence in empirical research, research ethics, and the place of values.

Prerequisite(s): SOCL 1101 with a minimum grade of D-

Attribute(s): NUpath Analyzing/Using Data

INMI 2500. California in Global Economy: Business, Policy, and Beyond. (4 Hours)

Examines the key sectors of California's economy and discusses their positionality within the global landscape. Presents conceptual foundations and frameworks drawing on strategic management, disruptive innovation, and political economy literatures. Provides students with in-depth sectoral knowledge and exposure to innovation diffusion trends relevant to California's economy and the world. Offers students an opportunity to learn about business and industry clusters specific to California and to develop an understanding of how California fits into and affects the world economy. Emphasizes the interactions of workforce diversity, radical innovation, and human resource management. Also discusses concepts relating to global talent flows, platform economies, network economies, and go-to-market strategies.

Attribute(s): NUpath Difference/Diversity, NUpath Societies/Institutions

INMI 2510. China, Globalization, and the Environment. (4 Hours)

Explores the global impacts of China's reemergence as an economic, technological, and political leader. Takes a political ecology approach to examine chains of production and consumption connecting China with the rest of the global economic system. Discusses how global trade affects people and the environment where products are made, how U.S. and global trade policies shape international development, and how consumer choices can have wide-ranging environmental consequences.

Attribute(s): NUpath Societies/Institutions

INMI 2550. Sustainability in the Beauty Industry. (4 Hours)

Offers an interdisciplinary introduction to sustainability within the beauty industry. Examines challenges and opportunities in creating and marketing products that are environmentally responsible, ethical, and socially conscious. Explores scientific principles underlying sustainable formulation, the environmental impact of ingredients and packaging, and the social implications of beauty industry practices. Emphasizes systems thinking and ethical reasoning as students analyze how scientific innovation, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility can converge to transform traditional beauty industry paradigms.

Attribute(s): NUpath Ethical Reasoning

INMI 2700. Transformative Justice Through Computing Technology. (4 Hours)

Explores social impact through the intersection of transformative justice and computer science. Examines how technology can be leveraged to confront issues related to justice, community empowerment, and social transformation. Actively engages students in applying transformative justice approaches to addressing institutionalized disparities suffered by previously incarcerated women and nonbinary individuals of color. Provides hands-on support through development and deployment of technology-based solutions such as extended reality to aid these individuals in successfully acclimating to life outside of prison and gaining equitable access to technology learning.

Attribute(s): NUpath Difference/Diversity

INMI 2710. Social Impact Consulting and Artificial Intelligence. (4 Hours)

Engages student teams in actively crafting innovative solutions to critical social challenges. Students work directly with mission-driven entities to provide analyses, recommendations, strategies, and assessments critical to growth, viability, and impact. Emphasizes the equitable, responsible, and effective application of artificial intelligence tools and other frontier technologies to enhance problem-solving approaches and drive data-informed decision making. Offers students an opportunity to gain a richer perspective on catalyzing social impact; develop skills in communication across social, cultural, and disciplinary boundaries; and apply sound leadership and decision-making principles within diverse environments. Provides hands-on support to entrepreneurs, initiatives, and organizations in local communities and beyond.

Attribute(s): NUpath Difference/Diversity, NUpath Integration Experience

INMI 2810. Sustainability and Persuasion. (4 Hours)

Presents research and theories on changing individual and institutional behavior related to environmental sustainability and personal well-being. Introduces research on attitude change, attitude-behavior relations, persuasion and compliance principles, and resistance and obstacles to behavior change in both individuals and society. Exposes students to scientific case studies of educational and behavior change programs in sustainability and well-being. Offers students an opportunity to develop programs and campaigns to improve sustainability and well-being.

Prerequisite(s): PPTH 1260 (may be taken concurrently) with a minimum grade of C or PPTH 1261 (may be taken concurrently) with a minimum grade of C or PSYC 1101 (may be taken concurrently) with a minimum grade of C

Attribute(s): NUpath Natural/Designed World

INMI 2820. Climate Change, Health, and Resilience. (4 Hours)

Examines how human behavior contributes to both climate change and chronic disease and how climate change exacerbates poor health trends and inequities, creating new health risks in the United States and around the globe. Considers the health impacts of environmental changes, such as changing temperatures, extreme events, and scarcity of resources. Presents strategies for building resilience and considers steps to adapt to and mitigate climate change that mutually enhance the health of individuals, communities, and the environment.

Prerequisite(s): AFCS 1270 (may be taken concurrently) with a minimum grade of C or AFRS 1270 (may be taken concurrently) with a minimum grade of C or PPTH 1260 (may be taken concurrently) with a minimum grade of C or PPTH 1261 (may be taken concurrently) with a minimum grade of C or PPTH 1270 (may be taken concurrently) with a minimum grade of C or PSYC 1101 (may be taken concurrently) with a minimum grade of C

Attribute(s): NUpath Natural/Designed World

INMI 3189. Research Methods in Communities of Color. (4 Hours)

Aims to equip students with the skills for social research in intersectional issues of race and ethnicity. Examines how to carry out research with communities, engage with ethical considerations, and interrogate the historical and contemporary impact of research on communities of color. Familiarizes students with methodologies developed by oppressed communities that challenge the racialized and gendered inequalities underlying the production and dissemination of knowledge. Enables students to draw on insights from Ethnic Studies, Critical Health Studies, Disability Studies, and Women's Studies to examine the intersections between race, nation, gender, sexuality and (dis)ability. Teaches students how to utilize interviews, focus groups, participant observation, and arts-based methods in the context of community-based, anti-oppressive research. Offers students the opportunity to design a senior thesis research project.

Attribute(s): NUpath Analyzing/Using Data

INMI 3461. Quantitative Conservation Biology. (4 Hours)

Explores the foundational principles of the interdisciplinary field of conservation biology. Focuses on population biology, population genetics, community ecology, biogeography, and animal behavior. Relies on quantitative tools to answer important questions about species persistence in a rapidly changing world. Emphasizes developing and critiquing conservation solutions based on ecology, biology, genetics, and behavior, as well as recognizing differing perspectives and values.

Prerequisite(s): EEMB 1101 with a minimum grade of C- or EEMB 2302 with a minimum grade of C- or EEMB 2400 with a minimum grade of C- or ENVR 1101 with a minimum grade of C-

Attribute(s): NUpath Natural/Designed World

INMI 3650. Plant Ecology. (4 Hours)

Explores plant form and function, diversity and distribution, abundance and population dynamics, and interactions with individuals of the same or different species, as well their role in ecosystem processes. Views material through an evolutionary lens and at multiple levels of biological organization.

Prerequisite(s): EEMB 1101 with a minimum grade of C- or EEMB 2302 with a minimum grade of C- or EEMB 2400 (may be taken concurrently) with a minimum grade of C- or ENVR 1101 with a minimum grade of C-

Corequisite(s): INMI 3651

Attribute(s): NUpath Natural/Designed World

INMI 3651. Lab for INMI 3650. (1 Hour)

Accompanies INMI 3650. Includes various lab experiments that emphasize evolutionary and ecological principles, experimental design, and use and interpretation of statistics.

Corequisite(s): INMI 3650

Attribute(s): NUpath Natural/Designed World

INMI 3654. Fire Ecology. (4 Hours)

Introduces students to the ecology of fire, one of the most common and important disturbance events in terrestrial ecosystems. Examines how fire affects individual plants and animals (e.g., physiology, growth, reproduction, etc.), populations, ecological communities, ecosystem processes (e.g., nutrient and hydrologic cycling), and how the interplay between the abiotic and biotic worlds shape fire regimes. Explores how humans interact with fire, including European-American fire suppression and indigenous use of fire. Discusses how (prescribed) fire is used in restoration and ecosystem management and how climate change alters our ability to use this tool.

Prerequisite(s): EEMB 2302 with a minimum grade of D- or EEMB 2400 with a minimum grade of D-

Attribute(s): NUpath Natural/Designed World