

HIU34101/02 Race and Ethnicity in American Thought, 1880-2020 I & II

This module surveys the development of American ideas about race and ethnicity from the end of the nineteenth century to the early twenty-first century. It explores how American intellectuals confronted the reality of a multi-ethnic society formed out of the history of settler colonialism, the enslavement of Africans, and mass European immigration. We will relate the ideas we encounter to their broader political and social context; in this case, particularly as they pertain to the histories of American racism, struggles for racial equality, and American immigration law. Among the intellectuals we will study are Ruth Benedict, Randolph Bourne, W.E.B. Du Bois, Lothrop Stoddard, Gunnar Myrdal, and Amy Uyematsu.