AMS 160: Cross-Racial Encounters in
20th Century U.S. Culture
AMS Undergraduate Seminar with
Professor Grace Wang
Wednesdays at 12:10-3pm in Wellman 5
CRN: 73780

How are our identities shaped by encounters with different racial and ethnic communities? How do we envision the communities to which we belong? This course examines how identities are constructed through interactions between racial communities and through the interplay of race, ethnicity, gender, class, and other social categories. Through an examination of music, films, novels, plays, and memoirs, we will consider how cross-racial encounters are mediated by desire, stereotypes, politics, and power. Do writers contest or further reinforce racial and ethnic categories in their writings? When does cross-racial identification represent acts of appropriation and when does it enhance cross-cultural understanding? How should we, as readers, make such evaluations?