

ETHNIC STUDIES

The Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder is dedicated to centering the epistemologies, histories and lived experiences of marginalized communities of color and Indigenous nations in order to challenge and critique all forms of oppression and to advance emancipatory, self-determining futures for all people. Ethnic Studies is an interdisciplinary field that is built upon four core disciplinary pillars of scholarship: Africana studies, Native American & Indigenous studies, Asian American studies and Chicana/Latina studies. Our department stresses the unique contributions and perspectives of each pillar, while training our students to think and research across them in transdisciplinary, intersectional and critical ways. We draw upon our strengths in engaged scholarship and culturally-sustaining pedagogy to examine how race and the interrelated categories of culture, ethnicity, indigeneity, gender, class, sexuality, religion, dis/ability and legal status impact the past and present lives of people locally, regionally and globally.

Course code for this program is ETHN.

Doctoral Degree

- Critical Ethnic Studies - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (<https://catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/ethnic-studies/critical-ethnic-studies-doctor-philosophy-phd/>)

Certificate

- Critical Ethnic Studies - Graduate Certificate (<https://catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/ethnic-studies/critical-ethnic-studies-graduate-certificate/>)

Faculty

While many faculty teach both undergraduate and graduate students, some instruct students at the undergraduate level only. For more information, contact the faculty member's home department.

Aldama, Arturo James (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_130739/)
Associate Professor, Chair; PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Belknap, Joanne Elizabeth (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_113617/)
Professor Emerita; PhD, Michigan State University

Browsh, Jared Bahir (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_163451/)
Assistant Teaching Professor; PhD, University of Colorado Boulder

Carroll, Clinton R. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_154726/)
Associate Professor, Associate Chair; PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Dupris, Joseph
Visiting Assistant Professor; Ph.D., University of Arizona

Ho, Jennifer (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_165744/)
Professor; PhD, Boston University

King, William M.
Professor Emeritus

Lawson, Angelica Marie (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_154727/)

Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Arizona

Maeda, Daryl Joji (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_141460/)
Professor; PhD, University of Michigan Ann Arbor

Nyeck, S.N. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_169704/)
Associate Professor; Ph.D., University of California-Los Angeles

O'Neal, Shawn Trenell (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_165586/)
Teaching Assistant Professor; M.A., University of Colorado Denver

Ordaz, Jessica (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_159142/)
Assistant Professor; PhD, University of California, Davis

Rabaka, Reiland (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_141463/)
Professor; PhD, Temple University

Rios, Gabriela (https://experts.colorado.edu/individual/fisid_167679/)
Assistant Professor; PhD, Texas AM University

Sepúlveda, Enrique (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_159858/)
Assistant Professor; PhD, University of California, Davis

Sohi, Seema (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_144616/)
Associate Professor; PhD, University of Washington

Upadhyay, Nishant (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_166101/)
Assistant Professor; PhD, York University

Villanueva, Nicholas (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_158252/)
Assistant Professor, Associate Chair; PhD, Vanderbilt University

Walker, Deward E. Jr
Professor Emeritus

Courses

ETHN 5001 (3) Screening Race, Class & Gender in the U.S. and the Global Borderland

Engaging with the ways in which race, class, gender and sexual oppression intersect, this class examines several film productions by and about diasporic and subaltern subjects (especially children and women) in the U.S./Mexico borderlands, and the urban ethnic metropolises of the global borderlands.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: ETHN 4001 and CINE 4001

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Crosscultural/Comparative Studies

ETHN 5009 (3) Chicana/os and Education

Chicana/o and Mexican-origin communities make up the largest and oldest of U.S. Latinx peoples. In many urban school districts across the country they make up the majority of the school enrollment; yet they are grossly underrepresented in higher education. This course will examine the socio-historical, cultural, and political contexts that have shaped the educational experiences of Chicana/os in the U.S. including issues of race, language learning and identity formation as they intersect with nation building. Previously offered as a special topics course.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: ETHN 4009

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

ETHN 5102 (3) Special Topics in Africana Studies

Variable topic that allows intensive coverage of a subject, theme, or issue in African American studies.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: ETHN 4102

Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 9.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Africana Studies

ETHN 5106 (3) Special Topics in Chicana and Chicano Studies

Examines a particular topic, theme, issue or problem concerning Chicana and Chicano studies.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: ETHN 4106

Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Chicana/o Studies

ETHN 5116 (3) Spoken Word Latinx Poetics and Poetry

This is a writing intensive workshop in contemporary poetry writing and Chicana/o and Latina/o poetics-specifically, Nuyorican and Afro-Latino (the Nuyorican Poets Cafe). The purpose of the course is dual-fold: 1) students will be encouraged and empowered to express and develop their poetic voice; 2) students will be challenged to develop and refine their poetic craft. Examines primarily Chicana and Latino specific poetic expression that reflects the cultural mestizaje of Chicano/a and Latina/o peoples.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: ETHN 4116

Recommended: Requisite 6 credits in any ETHN class.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Chicana/o Studies

ETHN 5233 (3) Native American and Indigenous Environmental Issues

Explores the unique knowledges, practices and perspectives of Native American and Indigenous peoples with regard to environmental issues, and how they both contrast with and complement dominant ways of knowing. Views central themes of Land, Plants, Animals, and Air/Water through political-ecological lenses. Critically assesses historical and contemporary Indigenous environmental matters in the contexts of colonial histories and tribal sovereignty.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: ETHN 4233

Recommended: Prerequisite ETHN 1023 or ETHN 2013.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: American Indian Studies

ETHN 5272 (3) W.E.B. Du Bois Seminar

Analyzes the life and thought of W.E.B. Du Bois for its contributions to interdisciplinary and intersectional studies. Emphasis will be placed on the innovative interdisciplinary and intersectional nature of Du Bois's epistemology and research methodology, as well as his participation in radical political and social movements.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: ETHN 4272

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Africana Studies

ETHN 5306 (3) The Chicana and Chicano and U.S. Social Systems

Gives special attention to ways U.S. institutions (i.e., legal, economic, educational, governmental and social agencies) affect Chicanas and Chicanos. Discusses internal colonialism, institutional racism, assimilation and acculturation, and identity.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: ETHN 4306

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Chicana/o Studies

ETHN 5353 (3) Indigenous Traditions and Law: A Global Perspective

Explores intersections of indigenous religions and law through historical and contemporary case studies. American Indian and Hawaiian contexts will be featured, as well as the study of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and its recent implementation in places as diverse as Bolivia, Norway and Nagaland. Theoretical issues in the academic study of religion and ethnic studies will be emphasized.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: ETHN 4353 and RLST 4353 and RLST 5353

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Crosscultural/Comparative Studies

ETHN 5552 (3) The Harlem Renaissance: Fr Black Wmn's Club Mvmnt to Hip Hop

Offers an interdisciplinary and intersectional overview of the origins and evolution of the Harlem Renaissance. Explores classic texts, music and works of art emerging from the Harlem Renaissance and related events and movements of its epoch: the Black Women's Club Movement, New Negro Movement, Pan-African Movement, Lost Generation, Jazz Age, World War I and World War II.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: ETHN 4552 and HUMN 4552

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Africana Studies

ETHN 5553 (3) Indigenous Representations in the United States

Examines the relationship and negotiation of culture/status/place through representation(s) within and concerning Indigenous peoples/communities. Focuses on U.S. representational forms in popular experiences e.g., literature, film, media and the roots of those representations via legal and medical definitions. This investigation and analysis is supplemented with focus on gender as well as contextualization through global Indigenous portrayals.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: ETHN 4553

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: American Indian Studies

ETHN 5632 (3) Frantz Fanon Seminar

Analyzes the life and thought of Frantz Fanon for its contributions to interdisciplinary and intersectional studies. Emphasis will be placed on the innovative interdisciplinary and intersectional nature of Fanon's psychology, sociology and philosophical anthropology, as well as his participation in African and Caribbean anti-colonial movements.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: ETHN 4632

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Africana Studies

ETHN 5714 (3) Sport for Social Justice

Takes a look at the nuanced and controversial relationship between sport and peace. Although sport is heralded as a powerful tool for social good, drawing attention to causes such as conflict resolution, HIV prevention, environmental initiatives and improved international relationships, it also continues to reflect and reproduce social inequalities in ways commonly overlooked.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: ETHN 4714

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Crosscultural/Comparative Studies

ETHN 5951 (3) Senior/Graduate Seminar in Ethnic Studies

Capstone experience in Ethnic Studies. Includes an independent research project and public presentation.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: ETHN 4951

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Crosscultural/Comparative Studies

ETHN 6000 (3) Foundations of Critical Ethnic Studies

Examines theories of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, colonialism and globalization, especially from the perspectives of communities most impacted by these categories and processes. This is the introductory course for graduate work in Critical Ethnic Studies.

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Crosscultural/Comparative Studies

ETHN 6001 (3) Research Methods in Critical Ethnic Studies

Examines various humanistic and social science research methodologies and applies critical frameworks (including feminist, queer, Indigenous and decolonial theories) to research through an intersectional lens committed to analyzing race, class, gender and sexuality as interconnected, knowledge-producing systems of power. Examines how Ethnic Studies scholars can engage with social justice projects by producing knowledge in cutting edge ways.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of ETHN 6000 (minimum grade C). Restricted to graduate students only.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Crosscultural/Comparative Studies

ETHN 6002 (1) Professionalization Seminar in Comparative Ethnic Studies

Provides graduate students with professionalization skills, including how to prepare a national fellowship application, how to give a successful job talk, how to publish refereed journals and book volumes and how to approach the academic job market.

Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 2.00 total credit hours.

Requisites: Restricted to Ethnic Studies (ETHN) graduate students only.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Crosscultural/Comparative Studies

ETHN 6011 (3) Race and Sexuality Studies

Examines primary texts in queer studies and queer theory while challenging colonial heteronormative and homonormative studies that exclude queers of color and their life experiences. Readings include works by Gloria Anzaldua, Jose Munoz, Audre Lorde, David Eng, Judith Butler, Judith Halberstam, and Michel Foucault. Topics such as queer borderlands, citizenship, racialized and transgender identities will be interrogated.

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Crosscultural/Comparative Studies

ETHN 6014 (3) Gender, Race, Class, and Crime

Examines crime and the criminal legal system practices through the lens of intersecting oppressions, particularly racism, sexism, heterosexism and classism.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: SOCY 7014

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Crosscultural/Comparative Studies

ETHN 6100 (3) Race and Citizenship in U.S. History and Culture

Examines how the cultural and legal bounds of U.S. citizenship have been linked to race, gender, labor, class, and sexuality. Analyzes the experiences of racialized and gendered groups to explore the racial formations, exclusions and contradictions inherent with the institution of citizenship.

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Crosscultural/Comparative Studies

ETHN 6101 (1-6) Topics: Specialized Comparative Studies

Focuses on a variety of advanced interdisciplinary studies. Themes include: Race and Sports, Critical Whiteness Studies, Race and Masculinity, Applied Community Engagement, Black Women in the Diaspora, US/Mexico Border Cultures, Criminalization and Latinas/os, Race, Violence and Film, and Cuba and Tourism.

Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours.

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Recommended: Requisite ETHN coursework.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Crosscultural/Comparative Studies

ETHN 6103 (3) Indigenous Thought and Theory: Foundations in NAIS

Introduces the theoretical landscapes of Native American and Indigenous Studies. Explores debates, methodologies and concerns that ground the field and provides critical engagement with Indigenous communities and knowledges. Teaches standards for evaluating scholarly sources based on criteria derived from the most outstanding recent scholarship in the field. Requires writing and thinking critically about issues of concern for global indigenous communities.

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: American Indian Studies

ETHN 6110 (3) Adv Tpcs: Chicana/o Studies: US/Mexico Borderlands

Examines complex histories, cultural practices and liminal, 3rd spaces of the US and Mexico borderlands; racial and gender identities; community formations. Considers a range of autobiographic testimony narratives, films, social and legal studies, and theories of subjectivity that engage with the politics of representation vis a vis the criminalization of Chicana/o and ethnic youth, immigrants and those perceived to be immigrants.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: RLST 6110

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Chicana/o Studies

ETHN 6301 (3) Decolonial/Postcolonial Theory

Offers an overview of the origins and evolution of Decolonial/Postcolonial Theory. Critically compares and contrasts decolonial discourse with postcolonial theory. Exposes students to the ways in which decolonial and postcolonial theory conceptually interconnect via Cultural Studies, Critical Race Studies and Ethnic Studies-derived discourses such as racial colonialism, the critique of European imperialism, transnationalism feminism, Indigeneity/Indigenous Studies, Diaspora Studies and Subaltern Studies.

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Crosscultural/Comparative Studies

ETHN 6501 (3) Critical Race Theory: Soc Scnc Explrtn/Intrvntn into Crit Race St

Offers an overview of the origins and evolution of Critical Race Theory (CRT). Critically compares and contrasts legal and extralegal social science approaches to CRT. Exposes students to the ways in which CRT and Critical Ethnic Studies conceptually interconnects via CRT-derived discourses such as Critical Race Feminism, Critical White Studies, TribalCrit, LatCrit, AsianCrit, DesiCrit, QueerCrit and Decolonial/Postcolonial Critical Race Theory.

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Crosscultural/Comparative Studies

ETHN 6841 (1-6) Advanced Directed Readings in Ethnic Studies

This is a graduate level directed readings course designed to expand student knowledge in a particular area of concentration with a broad interdisciplinary and comparative framework. These areas of concentration include work in Africana, American Indian, Asian American, Chicana and Chicano and Transnational/Hemispheric ethnic studies.

Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.

Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Crosscultural/Comparative Studies

ETHN 8990 (1-10) Doctoral Dissertation

All doctoral students must register for a minimum of 30 hours of dissertation credit as part of the requirements for the degree. For a detailed discussion of doctoral dissertation credit, refer to the Graduate School section.

Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 30.00 total credit hours.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Crosscultural/Comparative Studies