ETHNIC STUDIES

The field of Ethnic Studies was born out of, and is dedicated to, struggles for social justice for all people. The Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder draws on this tradition of engaged scholarship to examine how race and the interrelated categories of ethnicity, gender, class, and sexuality impact the lives of people in the United States and around the globe.

Our interdisciplinary department offers a doctoral degree and a graduate certificate in comparative ethnic studies. Faculty members engage in a wide variety of research on the cultures, histories, epistemologies, and experiences in African American, Asian American, Chicana and Chicano, and Native American peoples in the U.S. and beyond. Their research and teaching address these topics through critical, transnational, queer, decolonial and comparative perspectives.

Course code for this program is ETHN.

Doctoral Degree

- Comparative Ethnic Studies - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
  (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/ethnic-studies/comparative-ethnic-studies-doctor-philosophy-phd)

Certificate

- Comparative Ethnic Studies - Graduate Certificate
  (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/ethnic-studies/comparative-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; PhD, University of California-Berkeley

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

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

Holmes, Kwame Alfred (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_152870)
Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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)
Associate Professor; PhD, University of Michigan Ann Arbor

Medak-Saltzman, Danika Fawn (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_145844)
Assistant Professor; PhD, University of California-Berkeley

Perez, Emma Marie (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_130962)
Professor; PhD, University of California-Los Angeles

Potter, Hillary A (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_124938)
Associate Professor; PhD, University of Colorado Boulder

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

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

Walker, Deward
Professor Emeritus

Williams, Bianca Christel (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_147342)
Associate Professor; PhD, Duke University

Withycombe, Jenny Lind (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_153354)
Instructor; PhD, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

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. and Mexico borderlands, and the urban ethnic metropoles of the global borderlands.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted:
ETHN 4001 and FILM 4001
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Crosscultural/Comparative Studies

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 Chicanas and Latinas 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 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 Chicanos 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 and 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 Comparative 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 Comparative Ethnic Studies.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Crosscultural/Comparative Studies

ETHN 6001 (3) Research Methods in Comparative 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.
Requisites: Restricted to Ethnic Studies (ETHN) graduate students only.
Grading Basis: Pass/Fail
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 Anzaldúa, 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

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 via 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. Examines 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 Exprtn/lntrvntn 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. Examines 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, DesiCriti, 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