# Ethnic Studies

**Director:** Kundai Chirindo  
**Administrative Coordinator:** TBD

Ethnic identity is integral to the formation of group consciousness, as it produces common meaning through shared language, religious traditions, and family history. At the same time, colonialism, slavery, and genocide have been intertwined with the construction of racial and ethnic categories. To recognize both the positive and negative aspects of ethnic identity, as well as to heed the significance of transnational migrations in the creation of diasporic identities, the ethnic studies minor focuses on five themes: diaspora, colonialism, slavery, genocide, and community formation. Fostering an interdisciplinary approach that pulls together a variety of historical, social, and cultural perspectives, the curriculum explores the five themes and related topics as they intersect with gender, sexuality, class, and nation.

## Minor Requirements

A minimum of 24 semester credits distributed as follows:

- One course chosen from the following:
  - HIST 240: Race and Ethnicity in the United States
  - HIST 243: African American History Since 1863
  - SOAN 225: Race and Ethnicity in Global Perspective

- ETHS 400 Ethnic Studies Colloquium

- 16 elective semester credits from the departmental listings below. No more than two courses can be applied to the minor from any one department. At least one of the elective courses must be at the 300 or 400 level.

- 12 semester credits must be exclusive to the minor.

## Departmental Listings

### Art

- ART 207: Pre-Columbian Art
- ART 451: Special Topics in Art History (only when the topic is relevant)

### English

- ENG 319: Postcolonial Literature: Anglophone Africa, India, Caribbean
- ENG 326: African American Literature

### Ethnic Studies

- ETHS 220: Education and Social Inequality in Urban America
- ETHS 320: Critical Hip-Hop Studies
- ETHS 345: Ray Warren Symposium on Race and Ethnic Studies Chair

### French Studies

- FREN 330: Francophone Literature
- FREN 450: Special Topics (only when the topic is relevant)

### Hispanic Studies

- SPAN 230: Hispanic Literature in Translation (only when the topic is relevant)
- SPAN 260: Cultural Production of the Spanish-Speaking World
- SPAN 360: Latin America and Spain: Pre-Columbian to Baroque
- SPAN 370: Latin America and Spain: Enlightenment to the Present
- SPAN 440: Topics in Hispanic Literatures (only when the topic is relevant)
- SPAN 446: Special Topics in Hispanic Literatures and Cultures (only when the topic is relevant)

### History

- HIST 134: United States: Revolution to Empire
- HIST 135: United States: Empire to Superpower
- HIST 141: Colonial Latin American History
- HIST 142: Modern Latin American History
- HIST 209: Japan at War
- HIST 217: The Emergence of Modern South Asia
- HIST 221: Britain in the Age of Revolution, 1688 to 1815
- HIST 226: 20th-Century Germany
- HIST 229: The Holocaust in Comparative Perspective
- HIST 239: Constructing the American Landscape
- HIST 240: Race and Ethnicity in the United States
- HIST 242: Borderlands: U.S.-Mexico Border, 16th Century to Present
- HIST 328: The British Empire
- HIST 335: History and Culture of American Indians
- HIST 338: Crime and Punishment in the United States
- HIST 345: Race and Nation in Latin America
- HIST 347: Modern Mexico: Culture, Politics, and Economic Crisis
- HIST 348: Modern Cuba
- HIST 400: Reading Colloquium (only when topic is relevant)
- HIST 450: History Seminar (only when topic is relevant)

### International Affairs

- IA 230: African Politics
- IA 231: Latin American Politics
- IA 232: Southeast Asian Politics
- IA 296: Human Rights in International Relations
- IA 342: Perception and International Relations

### Latin American Studies

- LAS 200: Latin American Cultural Studies

### Music

- MUS 142: Music and Social Justice

### Political Science

- POLS 313: Global Justice

### Psychology

- PSY 390: Cross-Cultural Psychology

### Rhetoric and Media Studies

- RHMS 313: Politics of Public Memory
- RHMS 315: Comparative Rhetoric
- RHMS 321: Argument and Social Justice
- RHMS 340: Media Across Cultures
RHMS 406  Race, Rhetoric, and Resistance

Sociology/Anthropology

SOAN 225  Race and Ethnicity in Global Perspective
SOAN 251  Myth, Ritual, and Symbol
SOAN 261  Gender and Sexuality in Latin America
SOAN 266  Social Change in Latin America
SOAN 270  Cultural Politics of Youth in East Asia
SOAN 274  Chinese Culture Through Film
SOAN 281  South Asian Cultures
SOAN 285  Culture and Power in the Middle East
SOAN 310  Religion, Society, and Modernity
SOAN 324  Anthropology of Violence
SOAN 347  Borderlands: Tibet and the Himalaya
SOAN 349  Indigenous Peoples: Identities and Politics
SOAN 350  Global Inequality
SOAN 355  African Migration and Diaspora
SOAN 360  Colonialism and Postcolonialism
SOAN 363  Imagining the Nation: Culture and Identity in Nation-State Formation
SOAN 373  Political Economy of Black Labor

Theatre

TH 382  American Theatre and Drama: 19th Century to Present

Faculty

Kimberly Brodkin. Associate professor with term of gender studies and ethnic studies. Gender and politics in the U.S. PhD 2001 Rutgers University. BA 1992 University of Pennsylvania.


Kundai V. Chirindo. Associate professor of rhetoric and media studies, director of the Ethnic Studies Program (fall). Rhetoric, culture, and hermeneutics; Africa in the public imaginary; rhetoric and postcolonial theory. PhD 2012 University of Kansas. MA 2008, BA 2004 Bethel University.


Deborah Heath. Associate professor of anthropology, director of the Gender Studies Program. Anthropology of science, technology, and medicine; anthropology of the body; cultural and critical theory; visual and narrative representation. PhD Johns Hopkins University. MA University of Minnesota at Minneapolis–St. Paul. BA Reed College.


Courses

ETHS 220 Education and Social Inequality in Urban America
Content: Examines the sociological relationship between education, the school system, and society, with a particular focus on how schooling can reproduce, reinforce, and perpetuate racial inequality, class hierarchies, and social stratification in urban America. By surveying and analyzing foundational theories that investigate and interrogate the social function of education, the social purpose of schools, and the vulnerable conditions of the ghetto, this course will provide theoretical understanding and empirical analysis of how education and the process of schooling can impact social life.
Prerequisites: None.
Restrictions: Sophomore standing required.
Usually offered: Annually, spring semester.
Semester credits: 4.

ETHS 244 Practicum
Content: Development of an extensive project relating to ethnic studies issues in an organizational setting. Placement in community-based social and educational agencies concerned with problems related to race and ethnicity, such as employment discrimination, immigration rights, civil and voting rights, equal access to education, housing, law, public policy, and political organization. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisites: One ethnic studies course.
Restrictions: Declared ethnic studies minor. Sophomore standing and consent of program director and faculty sponsor required.
Usually offered: Annually, fall and spring semester.
Semester credits: 1-4.

ETHS 250 Education, Culture, and Citizenship
Content: Connecting education and cultural competence theory to the practice of civic leadership. Exploration of the intersection of these concepts through the creation of a community-based research project that meets the needs of a community or community organization in the Portland metro area. Includes readings and discussion. Credit-no credit.
Prerequisites: None.
Restrictions: Sophomore standing required.
Usually offered: Annually, fall and spring semester.
Semester credits: 2.

ETHS 320 Critical Hip-Hop Studies
Content: Using an interdisciplinary approach to explore the complexity of hip-hop culture and the lived experiences of people in inner-city urban America, this course will examine the historical factors and conditions that birthed hip-hop culture, early narratives and experiences that were being articulated through the music, the corporate commodification of the art form (i.e., rap music), the contemporary representation of African American culture in mainstream rap music, and the possibility of hip-hop culture as a form of resistance against structural marginalization.
Prerequisites: None.
Restrictions: Sophomore standing required.
Usually offered: Annually, fall semester.
Semester credits: 4.

ETHS 345 Ray Warren Symposium on Race and Ethnic Studies Chair
Content: Student chairs perform substantive analytic work related to this interdisciplinary field of study, conducting extensive research to explore speakers, develop panels, identify important issues, and develop the program of events. Working closely with each other, the planning committee, and the faculty director, chairs also develop leadership and professional responsibilities. Preference given to minors in Ethnic Studies, but students with relevant coursework or other experience will be considered.
Prerequisites: None.
Restrictions: Junior standing. Requires permission of instructor after completion of application and interview.
Usually offered: Annually, fall semester.
Semester credits: 4.

ETHS 400 Ethnic Studies Colloquium
Content: Reading and critical analysis of major interpretive works. Organized around themes or analytical problems; comparative study of works in ethnic studies exemplifying different points of view, methodologies, subject matter. Focus varies depending on instructor’s teaching and research area.
Prerequisites: SOAN 225 or HIST 240 recommended.
Restrictions: Sophomore standing required.
Usually offered: Annually, fall semester.
Semester credits: 4.

ETHS 499 Independent Study
Content: Opportunities for well-prepared student to design and pursue a substantive course of independent learning on an advanced level. Details determined by the student and the supervising instructor. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisites: SOAN 225 or HIST 240.
Restrictions: Declared ethnic studies minor. Sophomore standing and consent of program director and faculty sponsor required.
Usually offered: Annually, fall and spring semester.
Semester credits: 2-4.