

ETHNIC STUDIES, MINOR

Jacqueline Nanfito, Program Director
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Program Overview

The goal of the Ethnic Studies Program is to expand and enhance the university's course offerings on ethnicity and race in the United States and around the world. The program's objectives are:

- a. to examine relationships among racial/ethnic groups, the processes of racial/ethnic formation, and their intersections with class, gender, and sexuality at the personal and collective levels
- b. to foster the development of research skills in a broad range of disciplines in the humanities
- c. to contribute to an interdisciplinary knowledge of the challenges and contributions of ethnic minorities in the United States
- d. to impart to students a deep knowledge of the cultures of Africa and Latin America
- e. to help students develop competencies for working with people of different racial/ethnic backgrounds and to foster an understanding of racial/ethnic diversity
- f. to support students and faculty in the transmission of knowledge, in the discovery and development of new ideas, and in research and writing in the field of ethnic studies
- g. to inculcate in students an understanding of the complexity and challenges of multiethnic societies, and to prepare them for careers in education, business, law, government service, social work, social welfare, health care, teaching, public policy, law enforcement, urban and community development, and the arts.

Ethnic Studies is an interdisciplinary program. The program aims to develop fundamental skills in critical and global thinking and in comparative analysis, as well as an understanding of the interactions of race, class, gender, and sexuality in the experiences of a range of social groups. It is designed to bring together a community of students, faculty, and staff devoted to the transmission of knowledge and the discovery of new ideas in the field of ethnic studies. Ethnic Studies also offers diverse perspectives that challenge monolithic thinking about the formation of identities and societies.

The program's core courses focus on the exploration and comparison of the cultures, history, politics, and economics of Africa, Latin America, and their diasporas. Program offerings explore ethnicity and cross-cultural exchange globally and in postcolonial frames. Ethnic Studies supports research pertinent to the field and encourages cultural and academic exchange among scholars and students.

The program is part of the university's mission to enhance the recruitment, retention, and excellence of a diverse faculty and student body. Our long-term goals are to extend program offerings to encompass other ethnic minority groups and to develop a center that will foster an appreciation of ethnic diversity and difference in the learning and research communities of Case Western Reserve University.

Undergraduate Policies

For undergraduate policies and procedures, please review the Undergraduate Academics section of the General Bulletin.

Program Faculty

Jacqueline Nanfito, PhD
(UCLA)
Associate Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Director, Ethnic Studies Program
Latin American studies / Women's studies

Katia Almeida-Tracy, PhD
(Federal University of Rio Janeiro)
Senior Instructor, Department of Anthropology
Latin America and Brazil, globalization and electronic technologies in higher education

Damaris Punaes-Alpizar, PhD
(University of Iowa)
Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Latin American studies

Joy Bostic, PhD
(Union Theological Seminary)
Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies; Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
African-American religion and culture

M. Gabriela Copertari, PhD
(Georgetown University)
Associate Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Latin American literature and film

Cristián Gómez Olivares, PhD
(University of Iowa)
Associate Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Latin American literature and theory

Deepak Sarma, PhD
(University of Chicago)
Professor, Department of Religious Studies
Hinduism; Indian philosophy; philosophy of religion; method and theory

Jonathan Tan, PhD
(Catholic University of America)
Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan Professor in Catholic Studies; Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies
Asian/Asian American studies and Chinese/Chinese American studies

Program Requirements

The Ethnic Studies minor is open to all undergraduate students. It requires a minimum of 15 credit hours. Students are required to take 6 credit hours from Ethnic Studies core courses and 9 credit hours in their chosen areas of concentration. Community projects are strongly recommended, and students are encouraged to carry out field research in their areas of concentration.

The core courses are designed to introduce students to the interdisciplinary field of ethnic studies. Courses may be individually or team taught and will sometimes be conducted in seminar format. Students are encouraged to use the tools and perspectives of several

disciplines (history, literature, art history, anthropology, film, sociology, and political science, for example) to address the experiences of African-Americans and Latino/a Americans. Courses center on the examination of social, cultural, political, and economic structures that shape the lives of these ethnic minorities in the United States. They examine how race, class, and gender have impacted their identities as well as their economic, social, political, and cultural productions. Assignments and courses make maximum use of the archives and collections of University Circle institutions.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses:		6
<i>Choose two of the following:</i>		
ETHS 251	Perspectives in Ethnicity, Race, Religion and Gender	
ETHS 252A	Introduction to African-American Studies	
ETHS 252B	Introduction to Latina/o Studies	
ETHS 253A/ HSTY 135	Introduction to Modern African History	
ETHS 253B	Introduction to Latin American History	
Concentration Courses		9
Total Credit Hours		15

Concentrations

African Studies Concentration

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Choose three of the following:		9
COSI 260	Multicultural Aspects of Human Communication	
ETHS 252A	Introduction to African-American Studies	
FRCH/WLIT 295	The Francophone World	
FRCH/WLIT 308	Immigration and the Paris Experience	
Total Credit Hours		9

African-American Studies Concentration

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Choose three of the following:		9
COSI 260	Multicultural Aspects of Human Communication	
ENGL 365N	Topics in African-American Literature	
HSTY 260	U.S. Slavery and Emancipation	
HSTY 261	African-American History, 1865 - Present	
HSTY 318	History of Black Women in the U.S.	
Total Credit Hours		9

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Concentration

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Choose three of the following:		9
COSI 260	Multicultural Aspects of Human Communication	
POSC 364	Dictatorship and Democracy in Modern Latin America	
SPAN 322	Latin American Short Story	

SPAN 326	The Fantastic in Latin American Prose	
SPAN 342	Latin American Feminist Voices	
SPAN 343	The New Drama in Latin American	
Total Credit Hours		9

Global Ethnic Studies Concentration

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Choose three of the following:		9
ANTH 314	Cultures of the United States	
ANTH 530	Seminar in Medical Anthropology: Topics	
COSI 260	Multicultural Aspects of Human Communication	
ENGL 270	Introduction to Gender Studies	
ENGL/WLIT 365Q	Post-Colonial Literature	
FRCH/WLIT 295	The Francophone World	
POSC 374	Politics of Development in the Global South	
Total Credit Hours		9