

Race and Ethnic Studies

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The Race and Ethnic Studies major takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of race and ethnicity—what do these categories of difference mean? How have they been defined, constructed, and applied in different socio-historic contexts? How do they intersect or overlap with other axes of difference (e.g. gender, class, nation, religion)? Exploring these questions with analytical tools and approaches developed in a range of academic disciplines, this major leads to a critical examination of many historical and contemporary social issues that arise from the institutionalization of race and ethnicity.

The Race and Ethnic Studies major will complete two foundational courses, a concentration designed with the adviser and approved by the Race and Ethnic Studies Committee, a senior seminar and thesis, and elective courses totaling 36 credits and chosen such that the overall coursework is drawn from a minimum of three departments. Three courses in addition to the senior seminar and thesis must be at the 300 or 400 level; at least two of these must be taken at Whitman. No more than 12 credits earned in off-campus programs and transfer credit, nor more than four credits in independent study, may be used to satisfy the Race and Ethnic Studies major requirements. In all courses, the student's work should focus on issues of race and ethnicity whenever that is possible. Courses completed in race and ethnic studies apply to the humanities, social sciences, alternative voices, and fine arts distribution areas. In addition, the student will complete

12 credits of college-level study in a language other than his or her first language.

Foundation courses: GENS 245, *Critical and Alternative Voices*, plus one other course centered on racial and ethnic analysis (SOC 267 *Race and Ethnic Group Relations*; HIST 371 *African American History*; HIST 268 *U.S. Ethnic and Immigration History*; POL 259 *Politics of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion*; PHIL 225 *Critical Race Theory*).

Concentration: Three courses (typically nine to 12 credits) defining focus of study in a topic or region, providing context for the thesis. Two of the three courses must be taken at Whitman, and independent study classes are not permitted. The concentration must be proposed to and approved by the Race and Ethnic Studies Committee by the end of fall semester of the junior year. Examples of regional concentrations include: Race and Ethnicity in Latin America, Ethnicity and Race in Africa, U.S. Race and Ethnic Studies, African American Studies, or Race and Ethnicity in South Asia. Examples of thematic or topical concentrations include: Ethnicity and Identity; Race and Gender; Literary Representations of Race and Ethnicity; Race and Class; Ethnicity and Nation; Race, Ethnicity, and Nature; Religion and Ethnicity. The proposal must include a title, a list of the three courses proposed, and an explanation of how the courses fit together and complement each other.

Electives: Usually three courses chosen to complement the concentration, such that, in combination with foundational and concentration coursework, the student has worked in three disciplines overall. It is recommended that the student explore more than one geographic area.

Capstone: A senior seminar (four credits) in the fall, in which students discuss common readings and case studies and begin thesis research, and completion of thesis (two credits) in the spring. The oral portion of the major exam will begin with a thesis defense and proceed to a broader synthesis of the student's work in the major. Students will propose thesis topics to the Race and Ethnic Studies committee by the end of the junior year.

Language Requirement: The language

requirement places value on the linguistic dimensions of difference and provides students with at least minimal direct exposure to this dimension. The student will complete 12 credits of college-level study in a language other than the student's first language. No more than two languages are allowed within the 12 credits. These credits may be earned at Whitman College, through transfer credit from accredited U.S. institutions of higher learning, or from a Whitman approved study abroad program.

The Race and Ethnic Studies minor: The student completing a minor in Race and Ethnic Studies will take GENS 245, *Critical and Alternative Voices*, one of the foundation courses (SOC 267 *Race and Ethnic Group Relations*; HIST 371 *African American History*; HIST 268 U.S. *Ethnic and Immigration History*; POL 259 *Politics of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion*; PHIL 225 *Critical Race Theory*), and three elective courses chosen from the list of eligible courses.

1. "Foundation" courses: courses incorporating race and ethnicity as central, defining issues:

GenS 245 *Critical and Alternative Voices*
 Hist 371 *African American History*
 Hist 268 *US Ethnic and Immigration History*
 Phil 225 *Critical Race Theory*
 Pol 259 *Politics of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion*
 Soc 267 *Race and Ethnic Group Relations*

2. Race and Ethnic Studies courses: a list from which majors will draw concentration and elective courses in consultation with adviser and approved by committee (for an updated course list, please see department Web page):

Anth 258 *Peoples of the Tibeto-Burman Highlands*
 Anth 259 *Andean Culture and Society Since the Inca*
 Anth 328 *Culture, Health, and Healing: Medical Anthropology*
 Arth 208 *Arts of the Americas: The Visual Culture of Conquest and Colonialism*
 Arth 221 *American Art and Visual Culture, Colonial to 1900*

Arth 222 *American Art and Visual Culture of the Twentieth Century*
 Educ 278 *Strategies for Teaching Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students*
 Educ 360/Soc 370 *Educational Equality*
 Educ 375 *Development and Diversity*
 Engl 181B *African American Literature: "I speak for you?"*
 Engl 388B *Slavery in the Literary Imagination*
 Fren 316 *Contemporary France and the Francophone World*
 Hist 188 *Modern Latin America*
 Hist 247 *Early China*
 Hist 250 *Colonies to Nation: North America, 1600-1800*
 Hist 259 *ST: Social History of Stuff*
 Hist 287 *Colonial Latin America*
 Hist 290/Soc 290 *History and Sociology of Rock 'n Roll*
 Hist 297 *Building a Nation, U.S. 1800-1890*
 Hist 310B *ST: The Colonial Moment in Africa*
 Hist 322 *Palestinian-Israeli Conflict*
 Hist 344 *Modern China*
 Hist 346 *Modern Japan*
 Hist 259 *History of Stuff*
 Hist 368 *Emergence of Modern America*
 Hist 369 *U.S. Since the Second World War*
 Hist 370 *Interrogating Sisterhood: Women and Gender in the U.S.*
 Hist 380 *ST: Black Atlantic*
 Hist 381 *History of Central America*
 Hist 383 *Women in Latin America*
 Hist 389 *History of Mexico*
 Jpns 347 *ST: Japanese Psychology*
 Mus 160 *Study of Jazz*
 Pol 220 *American Political Theory*
 Pol 258 *Politics in Africa*
 Pol 268 *South Asian Diasporas: Migration, Culture and Transnational Politics*
 Pol 313 *Social Policy and Democracy in the United States*
 Pol 316 *Culture, Ideology, Politics*
 Pol 329 *Theories of Empire*
 Pol 332 *Politics of Place*
 Pol 334 *U.S.-Mexico Border*
 Pol 335 *Cultural Politics of Development in Latin America*
 Pol 338 *North-South Relations*
 Pol 348 *International Politics of Ethnic*

Conflict

Pol 359 *Gender and International Hierarchy*

Pol 367 *African Political Thought*

Pol 378 *Transnationalism*

Pol 402 *Research Seminar: Racism & Latinos in Washington State*

Psyc 230/Soc 230 *Social Psychology*

Psyc 232 *Stereotype, Prejudice and Inter-group Relations*

Psyc 335 *Seminar in Cross-Cultural Psychology*

Psyc 347A *ST: Japanese Psychology*

Rel 222 *South Asian Religions II: The Classical Period*

Rel 260 *Religion in America from the Civil War to the Present*

Rel 259 *Religion in America from Columbus to the Civil War*

Rel 335 *Religious Intolerance*

Rel 345 *Judaism in the U.S.*

Rel 349 *Field Studies in the Religions of the Pacific Northwest*

Rel 358 *Feminist and Liberation Theologies*

Rel 388 *Religious Intolerance in the Contemporary U.S.*

Rel 389 *Multireligious South Asia*

RFS 240 *Rhetorical Explorations: Race, Class, and Gender*

RFS 250 *Persuasion, Agitation and Social Movements*

RFS 340 *African American Protest Rhetoric*

Soc 230/Psyc 230 *Social Psychology*

Soc 271 *Asian Americans in Contemporary Society*

Soc 290/Hist 290 *History and Sociology of Rock 'n Roll*

Soc 353 *Environmental Justice*

Soc 369 *Class, Status and Power*

Soc 370/Educ 360 *Issues of Educational Equality*

Span 305-306 *Advanced Spanish: Topics in Contemporary Hispanic Culture*

Span 325 *Healthcare and Language in the Walla Walla Community*

Span 335-336 *Hispanic Culture, History and Introduction to Hispanic Literature*

Span 441 *The Theater and Poetry of Federico Garcia Lorca*

Span 442/RFS 368C *Pedro Almodovar's Spain*

WLit 381A *Constructing the Caribbean*

WLit 382 *Media and Culture in Latino/Latin America*

301 Special Topics in Race and Ethnic Studies 2-4, 2-4

The course explores selected topics in race and ethnic studies.

490 Senior Seminar

4, x

Magnusson

Taught by a Race and Ethnic Studies faculty member with guest participation by others, this seminar is intended to engage senior majors in case studies focused on race and ethnicity. Readings, discussion, and papers, including a proposal for the thesis. Required of and limited to senior RAES majors. (Fall degree candidates should plan to take this seminar at the latest possible opportunity.) *Prerequisites*: Open to senior RAES majors.

497 Thesis

2, 2

Staff

Completion of a thesis based on the previous semester's plan. *Prerequisites*: RAES 490.

498 Honors Thesis

2, 2

Staff

Completion of an honors thesis. Required of and limited to senior honors candidates in race and ethnic studies. *Prerequisites*: RAES 490 and admission to honors candidacy.