Ethnic Studies Graduate Certificate

Ethnic Studies explores the ways in which racial and ethnic identities, social relations, cultures, and geographical spaces have been shaped over time. Focusing variously on the institutions and political/economic/social processes that have staged race at the center of the nation’s histories, Ethnic Studies provides an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the significance of race in contemporary U.S. society. Thus, Ethnic Studies provides an ethically and socially responsible scholarship that engages you in thinking critically about the world you in and your place in it.

A Graduate Certificate in Ethnic Studies can be pursued along with an MA and Ph.D. program. The certificate strengthens your credentials in race and ethnic studies in both national and global contexts. It demonstrates your training in issues relating to diversity, globalization, migration, social and economic inequalities, and contemporary realities.

Ethnic Studies Faculty:
The scholarship and training of faculty of the Department of Ethnic Studies is interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary. While the courses offered by the department speak of the intellectual roots of Ethnic Studies in the U.S. Civil Rights Movement and student activism, Ethnic Studies faculty also have particularly strong expertise in globalization, immigration and diaspora studies.

Required Course:
ETHN 6200 Theories of Race Relations, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism
This course provides and advanced introduction to classical theories of race and ethnicity, cultural studies, postcolonial studies, critical race theory, and the politics of multiculturalism. It focuses on questions of racial and ethnic systems of social organization and signification.

Sample of Ethnic Studies graduate courses:

ETHN/ACS course "Deadly Geographies" (offered in Spring 2015)
This course explores pathologies of fear and anxiety and the production of “deadly” spaces. It examines implicitly violent landscapes as well as states of being forged by technologies of fear and practices of survival. While identifying the ways in which terrifying states of living are constituted and lived or how "normal” lives are forged in states of siege, we will also explore the modes of resistance that enable survival and the making of alternate spaces of living. To whom are these landscapes deadly, who produces them, how are they mapped, who lives them, why are they deadly? These are some of the questions we will ask ourselves. This course will draw on a broad range of texts to engage experiences and spaces that possibly would include: colonial conquest; borderlands; partition; slavery; piracy in South East Asia; women’s labor and bodies; sorcery in Mozambique; disease; jihad and suicide bombers; private lives in Stalinist Russia; etc.

ETHN 6500 Sexuality Race and Nation: American Borderlands
Focusing on communities of color, the course analyzes how sexuality discourses and practices have constructed, reinforced, and challenged racial, ethnic, gender and class inequalities in the U.S. and globally. Materials focus on systemic rape, lynching, selective criminalization, sterilization, scientific discourses, AIDS policies, and border monitoring.
A list of some other graduate courses offered by the Department of Ethnic Studies:

- ETHN 6200 Theories of Race Relations, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism (Required course, offered every fall)
- ETHN 6800 Race and Gender in Cuba and Caribbean
- ETHN 6800 Twentieth Century North American Migrations
- ETHN 6500 Sexuality Race and Nation: American Borderlands
- ETHN 6800 African American Popular Music
- ETHN 6800 Ethnography on the Edge
- ETHN 6800 Rethinking the Cannon: The Affective Terrain of Race, Gender and Nation in the American Literary Tradition, 1830-1942
- ETHN 6820 Critical Pedagogy for Feminist & Anti-Racist Leadership
- ETHN 6800 Communicating Asian American Identities

Requirements for Ethnic Studies Graduate Certificate:
15 hours of approved course work in Ethnic Studies (3 credits each course)

- ETHN 6200: Theories of Race Relations, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism
- ETHN ______
- ETHN ______
- ETHN ______
- ETHN ______ (may be substituted with a cognate course offered by another program or department at BGSU)

No internship is required for the Ethnic Studies Graduate Certificate

Application Procedures:
All applicants seeking admission to the certificate program, must complete the application required by the Graduate College. Graduate Application

In addition to the application required by the Graduate College, all applicants not currently admitted to a BGSU master’s or doctoral program must submit: 1) three letters of recommendation, and 2) a personal statement (2 pages maximum) of career goals and reasons for applying to the program.

In addition to the application required by the Graduate College, students currently enrolled in a BGSU master’s or doctoral program should submit a personal statement (2 pages maximum) of career goals and reasons for applying to the program.

For more information about the Ethnic Studies Graduate Certificate, please contact:

Dr. Angela Nelson
Interim Chair and Graduate Coordinator for ETHN
228 Shatzel Hall
419-372-2796
anelson@bgsu.edu