

Ethnic Studies

As today's employers become increasingly aware of the importance of diversity in the workplace and throughout the world, they are seeking employees who are informed about ethnic diversity and who are able to work effectively with many different minority groups and constituencies.

Cornell College's ethnic studies program addresses questions of ethnic identity and relations between ethnic groups through a variety of interdisciplinary courses in areas ranging from anthropology to history and art.

The ethnic studies major includes courses from a range of disciplines, with core courses in anthropology, education, religion, and sociology, and a variety of electives in additional disciplines including art, politics, history, music, and psychology.

Courses eligible for credit toward a major in ethnic studies devote a significant portion of content to the study of subordinate racial or ethnic groups, where a subordinate group is understood as one whose members are, or have historically been, disadvantaged and subjected to unequal treatment by the dominant group in a society. Specific courses may emphasize the cultural practices of one or more racial or ethnic groups, or on the interrelationships between subordinate and dominant racial or ethnic groups.

Ethnic studies is an increasingly marketable major. Students who major in ethnic studies often go on to pursue careers in teaching, social work, and law. However, a background in the social, political, and legal status of ethnic groups is useful in many different careers, including psychology,

counseling, health care services, journalism, community organizing, and a wide variety of civil service positions in all levels of government.

Many students at Cornell complete double majors, and the ethnic studies program is flexible enough to be easily paired with another major, such as education, political science, psychology, English, economics, history, or sociology.

BENEFITS OF ONE COURSE AT A TIME

FOCUS AND DEPTH

Cornell's One Course At A Time curriculum meshes well with the interdisciplinary approach of the ethnic studies program and helps to develop a fuller, more holistic vision of the ethnic experience. Each course gives the opportunity to focus on a unique perspective, and students have time to work their way through literary texts, video, and research. Longer class meeting times allow for in-class debate and discussion, as well as visits from outside experts. Recently, for example, The Rev. Julius Calvin Trimble, resident bishop of the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and the Rev. Alan Scarfe, bishop of the Iowa Episcopal Diocese, visited campus and spoke to a Race and Ethnic Relations class about U.S. immigration policy and the role of churches in advocating for human rights.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY

One Course At A Time provides unparalleled flexibility for off-campus study and research, since each course is self-contained with no competing courses. Off-campus courses with an ethnic studies perspective include:

- Applied Anthropology: NGOs, Development, Tourism and Culture (the Bahamas).

Faculty Bios & Courses

MARCELA OCHOA-SHIVAPOUR

Professor of Spanish
Serves as advisor for the ethnic studies program. Teaches the core course Introduction to Ethnic Studies, as well as the electives Latinos in the U.S.; Latin American Culture and Civilization; and an intermediate Spanish class focused on immigration issues. Ph.D. in Spanish, University of Iowa

CAROL ZERBE ENNS

Professor of Psychology
Teaches the core course Multicultural Psychology. Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology, University of California, Santa Barbara

MARY OLSON

Professor of Sociology
Teaches the core course Race and Ethnic Relations, and the electives Contemporary Native Americans; Women: Oppressions and Resistances; and Civil Rights and Western Racism. Ph.D. in Sociology, University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh

CHRISTINA MORRIS PENN-GOETSCH

Professor of Art History
Teaches elective courses in African, African American, and Native American art history, as well as other topics courses in non-Western art history. Ph.D. in Art History, University of Iowa



- Slavery and Environment in a Comparative Context (the Bahamas).
- Women and Politics (India).
- Literature and Social Justice (Chicago).
- Economic Development in Rural Tanzania.
- Psychology of the Holocaust (Eastern Europe).
- Comparative Education in Belize.

Students may also conduct research at Chicago's prestigious Newberry Library and other historical locations during an on-site history course, studying the urban transformation of Chicago.

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

CAPSTONE PROJECT

The capstone experience is designed to be a meaningful conclusion to a student's major, and every project is approved by the ethnic studies committee, which provides help and varied perspectives. Past capstone projects include "The Black Panther Party and Gender Issues," "Spanish Speakers in California Primary Schools," "The Indian Child Welfare Act and Issues of Discrimination," and "The Political Process and Restoration of South Africa."

INTERNSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS

Recent internships and Cornell Fellowships have included a Fellowship in museum studies at the African American Museum of Iowa in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a Fellowship at the Gerace Research Center and the National Archives of the Bahamas, and an internship at an inner-city youth center in Texas.

AFTER CORNELL

ALUMNI CAREERS

AmeriCorps VISTA, Shelter House, Iowa City, Iowa (Class of 2015)

Associate producer, Shiraz Events, New York City (Class of 2014)

Math teacher, Teach for America, Houston, Texas (Class of 2013)

Dance instructor, Dance New York, New York City, New York (Class of 2013)

Health literacy program coordinator, Children's Medical Center, Dallas, Texas (Class of 2011)

Executive director, EmpowHER Microfinance, Nigeria (Class of 2010)

Talent recruiter, KIPP, San Antonio, Texas (Class of 2010)

Minneapolis area director, N2 Publishing, Minneapolis, Minnesota (Class of 2010)

Associate attorney, Babich Goldman, Des Moines, Iowa (Class of 2009)

Police officer, River Forest, Illinois (Class of 2008)

Bilingual liaison, Yamato Transport USA, Inc., Wood Dale, Illinois (Class of 1994)

GRADUATE SCHOOLS ATTENDED

Master of Social Sciences, anthropology and development studies, Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands (Class of 2015)

M.S., applied anthropology, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas (Class of 2011)

M.A., anthropology, University of Denver, Colorado (Class of 2011)

M.A., elementary education and teaching, Delta State University, Cleveland, Mississippi (Class of 2009)

J.D., University of Iowa College of Law, Iowa City, Iowa (Class of 2009)

MISHA QUILL

Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Teaches the core course Cultural Anthropology and the elective Cross-cultural Love and Family. Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology, University of Iowa

CATHERINE STEWART

Professor of History

Teaches the elective courses African-Americans in U.S. History, United States Social History Since 1940, and American Lives: African Americans. Ph.D. in History, State University of New York at Stony Brook