American Ethnic Studies is the interdisciplinary and comparative exploration of historical and contemporary relations of power and issues of social justice in American societies. Our main fields of research and pedagogy focus on the United States but also extend into questions about global and transnational dimensions, concepts, and histories concerning race and ethnicity in America.

Students earn a BA degree in American Ethnic Studies by taking core courses on ethnic-specific as well as comparative, multi-ethnic subjects. At the same time, they develop an emphasis in one of the four concentrations that make up the major.

In addition to ethnic studies courses in the social sciences, humanities, and interdisciplinary studies, the curriculum of the department includes language instruction in Swahili and Tagalog.

Internship and practicum courses enable students to work in community agencies and organizations. This exposes them to concrete labor and social experiences, and also affords them the opportunity to perform outreach services and apply their learning in active participation in the community.

The faculty, staff, students, and curriculum of AES are perhaps the most culturally diverse at the UW. This special characteristic greatly promotes the educational benefits of diversity in the classroom, such as the ability to respect difference and to engage in dialogue about diverse subjects from multiple, critical points of view.

Over the last three decades, American Ethnic Studies graduates have gone on to develop professional careers in academia, business, law, medicine, education, public administration, politics, diplomacy, community services, athletics, and more.
Faculty

AES faculty include the current UW President, who is holder of an endowed professorship and is former dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, former UW Provost, and former executive vice provost.

Other faculty in leadership positions include:

Director of the Diversity Minor
Director, Oceania and Pacific Islander Studies Minor program
Former Chair, National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies

2 Former Presidents, Association for Asian American Studies
Council Member, Indigenous Seed Keepers Network

Major awards and national organization offices held include:

Community Service Award, Society for Applied Sociology
Black Student Union Faculty/Staff Award
2 SITPA Fellowships (Summer Institute on Tenure & Professional Advancement, Duke University)
Government of Japan, Imperial Decoration, Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette
Book Prize – Best Edited Volume, The Association for the Study of Food and Society
Book Prize – Outstanding Academic Book, Choice
Book Prize – Honorable Mention, Gustavus Myer Center for the Study of Bigotry
Editor-in-chief, Journal of Asian American Studies
Co-Editor, Culture, Place, Nature Book series, University of Washington Press
Co-editor, Asian American History and Culture Series (Temple University Press)
Member, Council of Editors of Learned Journals
Excellence in Mentoring Award, Association for Asian American Studies
Director, NCTE’s Cultivating New Voices Among Scholars of Color Mentoring Program
3 Simpson Center Society of Scholars Fellowships
Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Fellowship
Chair, Society for the Study of Social Problems
Principal Investigator, Interpretive Research Grant, National Endowment for the Humanities
4 Ford Fellowships
Washington State Governor’s Ethnic Heritage Award
Citizen of the Year – Chinese American Citizens Alliance
4 Community Service Awards, International Examiner

Scholarship

Scholarship by American Ethnic Studies faculty include many articles, essays, book chapters, and book reviews, as well as books and anthologies on diverse subjects, including: J. Raymond Jones and Tammany; transforming the curriculum by making ethnic and women’s studies central to a liberal arts education; writing in multicultural settings; food and environmental justice; social stratification and inequality; gender, sexuality, and class; labor and immigration; political economy; American Ethnic Studies theory and methodology; women’s history in the Mexican military; Chicano labor history; technology, work, gender, and ecology on the U.S.-Mexico border; Chicano history and culture of Oregon; Chicano art and artists; U.S. Hispanic literature; African American literature and culture; Black intellectual traditions; gender and family in African American communities; Hawaii’s polyethnic literature; Japanese American imprisonment in WWII; Asian American literature; Asian American communities; Filipino Americans and the cultural politics of place; and Asian American and Pacific Islander American women.

FACULTY

3 Professors
4 Associate Professors
5 Assistant Professors
1 Acting Assistant Professor
1 Principal Lecturer
3 Lecturers
5 Emeritus Faculty

AREAS OF SCHOLARSHIP

African American Studies
Agroecology
Anthropology
Asian American Studies
Chicano Studies
Communication
Comparative American Ethnic Studies
Critical Race theory
Cultural Studies
Decolonial Studies
Environmental Justice
Environmental History-Greater Mexico
Ethnoecology and Ethnomedicine
Film Studies
Food Studies
History and Migration Studies
Immigration and Citizenship
Labor
Latin American Literature and Culture
Latinx Studies
Multiethnic American History
Multiethnic American Literature, Music and Performing Arts
Political Science
Psychology
Public Health and Policy
Settler Colonial Studies
Social Movement Studies
Sociology
Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies

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