AMERICAN ETHNIC STUDIES

The Department of American Ethnic Studies is an innovative unit dedicated to the critical study of race and ethnicity in relation to power. Our academic commitments are grounded in social justice values and practices that seek to eradicate systems of racism and other social, economic, environmental, and political inequalities.

Education

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.

American Ethnic Studies faculty and staff. Photo by Ellen Palms.
Faculty

AES faculty include the current UW President, who is holder of an endowed professorship and 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 program
Director, Oceania and Pacific Islander Studies Minor program
President, OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates, Greater Seattle

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:

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Residential Scholar Fellowship
Associate Editor, Social Problems
Book Prize - “Essential Reading” from Choice
Calderwood Seminars in Public Writing Grant for Teaching Support
Co-Editor, Asian American History and Culture Series, Temple University Press
Editor-in-Chief, Alon: Journal for Filipinx American and Diaspora Studies
Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Asian American Studies
4 Ford Foundation Fellowships
Gerald Ford Presidential Library and Museum Research Grant
The Henry Luce Foundation Grant (Initiative on Southeast Asia)
Herbert G. Gutman Prize, Labor and Working-Class History Association
J. P. Morgan Chase Foundation Grant

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
2 Associate Professors
5 Assistant Professors
1 Acting Assistant Professor
1 Teaching Professor
1 Assistant Teaching Professor
1 Senior Lecturer
1 Lecturer
7 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