

RACE AND CULTURAL STUDIES

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Faculty

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Undergraduate Degrees

Bachelor of Arts (BA)

- **Race and Culture Studies** (<http://catalog.ewu.edu/archives/2015-2016/social-behavioral-sciences-work/race-cultural-studies/race-culture-studies-ba>)

Undergraduate Minors

- **Race and Culture Studies Minor** (<http://catalog.ewu.edu/archives/2015-2016/social-behavioral-sciences-work/race-cultural-studies/race-culture-studies-minor>)

Undergraduate Program

The mission of the academic major in the study of Race and Culture is to contribute to the overall mission of Eastern Washington University "to prepare broadly educated, technologically proficient and highly productive citizens to obtain a meaningful career, to enjoy enriched lives and to make contributions to a culturally diverse society." More specifically, RCST provides Eastern Washington University students a comprehensive interdisciplinary curriculum that contributes to their understanding and appreciation of the experiences, concerns and perspectives of the three major historically marginalized populations, (African Americans, Chicanos/Latinos and Native Americans) in the United States.

Central Core Emphasis of the RCST Major

Students majoring in RCST enroll in a core curriculum using interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives. RCST majors study the history, culture, social-economics and political realities of these communities. More specifically, RCST majors gain insights about international connections relevant to these groups as well as participate in research and community based study to augment classroom learning.

RCST Interdisciplinary Nature

The core curriculum is interdisciplinary in nature and draws concepts, constructs, theories, and perspectives from an array of disciplinary areas including: history, anthropology, sociology political science, social work and the arts.

Career Opportunities with a RCST Major

Many professional areas recognize the need to have employees who are aware of and sensitive to the racial and cultural climate of contemporary society. They likewise recognize the rapidly changing racial and cultural demographic diversity taking places throughout the U.S. Employers are looking for professionals who bring with them the knowledge and skills

necessary to contribute to a productive work environment that is racially and culturally diverse. Underlying this effort are the many companies and agencies hiring diversity officers/managers to provide racial, ethnic and cultural training to assist in conflict resolution and offer advice on issues of race, ethnicity and culture in the work setting.

Professional fields open to RCST majors include, but are not limited to, law, politics, education, business, urban/regional planning, counseling, social work, health/medicine and public institutions such as schools, libraries and museums. As the contemporary job market becomes more competitive, employers are looking for individuals who possess extraordinary skills to deal with a diverse labor setting and markets.

A major in RCST provides employers and professionals the necessary skills and insights to be a successful in a changing contemporary society.

Grade Requirements

In order to graduate with a BA in Race and Culture Studies students must have a minimum grade point ≥ 2.0 and all courses completed towards the major must be ≥ 2.0 .

Race and Culture Studies Courses

RCST 101. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF RACE AND CULTURE. 5 Credits.

Satisfies: cultural and gender diversity university graduation requirement. This course is specifically designed to discuss at length the social construct and the lived realities of race and culture and how global diversity, the richness of culture, and complexities that internationalization and globalization impact our current realities.

RCST 202. RACE, PRIVILEGE AND POWER. 5 Credits.

Satisfies: cultural and gender diversity university graduation requirement. This course examines social stratification in the United States through the prism of race, privilege, and power. The course analyzes how social structure and ideology maintain social inequality. Specifically, it examines the ways in which the American economic, political and social systems perpetuate and reinforce inequality based on differences in class, race, culture and gender, and access to power.

RCST 304. LIBERATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE. 5 Credits.

Pre-requisites: RCST 101.

This course examines the ageless social liberation movements and struggles to be free through change: free to be critical of one's condition; free to express oneself without fear of retribution; or free from social, economic, political or religious oppression. It examines social change as it refers to an alteration in the social order of a society. This course is designed to focus on the liberation struggles, movements and social change of those historically marginalized populations in the U.S. The objective is to focus specifically on the struggles of African Americans, Chicanos, Native Americans and Asian Americans, a select few women and men and the liberation movements most associated with them.

RCST 330. RESEARCHING RACE AND CULTURE. 5 Credits.

Pre-requisites: RCST 101.

The purpose of this course is to help the student develop a general understanding of the research methods commonly used to gain and extend knowledge about race and culture. Students gain exposure to theory, knowledge and techniques that increase their effectiveness in thinking about consuming and conducting research about race and culture. The course is designed to be both an application and a theory course with the emphasis on gaining an initial understanding of the research processes.

RCST 430. RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES IN RACE AND CULTURE STUDIES. 5 Credits.

Pre-requisites: RCST 330.

This course provides an overview of methods and procedures for conducting research in Race and Culture studies and prepares students to evaluate research findings and practices, to design and carry out basic research procedures. Students learn to critically evaluate and utilize research, select research instruments and design applied research projects.

RCST 490. SENIOR CAPSTONE IN RACE AND CULTURE STUDIES. 5 Credits.

Pre-requisites: senior standing.

Satisfies: senior capstone university graduation requirement.

This course encourages personal engagement in the interest of relevance and pragmatism, through community study, research and documentation; directed research on an ethnic community problem to include fieldwork within the student's chosen community.

RCST 491. SENIOR THESIS IN RACE AND CULTURE STUDIES. 5 Credits.

Pre-requisites: senior standing.

The thesis represents a summative assessment of the student's academic competence in his or her field of study. Students complete and defend an original research project in the study of Race and Culture.

RCST 499. DIRECTED STUDY. 1-5 Credits.

Pre-requisites: permission of the instructor and the department chair.