Twin Cities Campus

Race, Indigeneity, Gender, and Sexuality Minor

Anthropology

College of Liberal Arts

Link to a list of faculty for this program.

Contact Information:
Race, Indigeneity, Disability, Gender & Sexuality Studies Initiative
310 Scott Hall
72 Pleasant St SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
612-626-1313
Email: ridgs@umn.edu
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- Program Type: Graduate free-standing minor
- Requirements for this program are current for Spring 2022
- Length of program in credits (Masters): 6
- Length of program in credits (Doctorate): 12
- This program does not require summer semesters for timely completion.

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the General Information section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

The RIGS graduate minor is the critical and comparative study of race, ethnicity, and indigeneity, as well as the interrogation of significant social categories of power and inequality, namely race, ethnicity, indigeneity, gender, sexuality, class, sovereignty, and diaspora. This interdisciplinary minor foregrounds a transnational and comparative framework to analyze multiple forms of social difference and their interactions in relation to one another. While the focus is on the United States, given the minors attention to the making of social categories and borders, the analytical lens and purview of the minor will be transnational in scale and scope.

Grounded by a strong commitment to the analyses and understanding of power relations, structural inequality, and social justice through a relational and multidisciplinary approach, the RIGS graduate minor focuses on the various interlinked processes that constitute the categories and groups in the first place, instead of taking for granted the a priori existence of separate groups, communities, experiences, and identities. This approach is at the vanguard of comparative race, ethnicity, and indigeneity, which is moving away from juxtaposing discrete groups and toward theorizing mutual constitution. Accordingly, this graduate minor privileges intersectionality, interdisciplinary, transnationalism, comparison, and relationality. What distinguishes this graduate minor is its conceptual and theoretical approach, which not only makes this program complementary to existing graduate courses of study at UMN, but also propels us to the cutting-edge of comparable programs at other institutions.

The RIGS graduate minor strengthens student work in their major field of study as students learn how best to integrate critical and comparative race, ethnicity, and indigeneity into their existing work, and how to complement their research to include multiple indigenous and critical race methodologies.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Prerequisites for Admission

Special Application Requirements:

Students interested in the minor are strongly encouraged to confer with their major field advisor and director of graduate studies, and the Race, Indigeneity, Gender, and Sexuality (RIGS) director of graduate studies regarding feasibility and requirements.

For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the General Information section of the catalog website.

Program Requirements

Use of 4xxx courses toward program requirements is permitted under certain conditions with adviser approval.

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Information current as of March 28, 2024

Courses offered for variable credit must be taken for 3 credits and any 4xxx-level coursework requires pre-approval by the RIGS director of graduate studies.

The minimum cumulative GPA for minor field coursework is 3.00.

Proseminar (3 credits)

Select 1 of the following courses in consultation with the RIGS director of graduate studies. If HIST 8910 Topics is chosen, take Race and Class in the United States for 3 credits.

AFRO 8202 - Seminar: Intellectual History of Race (3.0 cr)
HIST 8910 - Topics in U.S. History (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
SOC 8211 - The Sociology of Race & Racialization (3.0 cr)

Electives (3-6 credits)

Master's students select 3 credits, and doctoral students select 6 credits in consultation with the RIGS director of graduate studies. Topics courses must be taken for 3 credits in the section noted: AMIN 8910 AmInd & Indigenous Studies; ANTH 8510 Decolonizing Archives; ANTH 8810 Anthro of Capitalism; HIST 5910 Am Colonial & Indigenous Hist; HIST 5910 Intersect of Native & AfAm Hist; HIST 8910 Race & Class in US; HIST 8960 Politics of Land; HIST 8970 W. Imperialisms; POL 8260 Theorizing Violence; SOC 8090 Soc of Black Exp; SOC 8190 Genocide & Mass Violence.

AFRO 5866 - The Civil Rights and Black Power Movement, 1954-1984 (3.0 cr)
AFRO 8202 - Seminar: Intellectual History of Race (3.0 cr)
AMIN 5402 - American Indians and the Cinema [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
AMIN 5409 - American Indian Women: Ethnographic and Ethnohistorical Perspectives [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
AMIN 5412 - Comparative Indigenous Feminisms [GP] (3.0 cr)
AMIN 5890 - Readings in American Indian and Indigenous History (3.0 cr)
AMIN 5920 - Topics in American Indian Studies (3.0 cr)
AMIN 8301 - Critical Indigenous Theory (3.0 cr)
AMIN 8910 - Topics in American Indian and Indigenous Studies (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
AMST 5920 - Topics in American Studies (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
ANTH 8203 - Research Methods in Social and Cultural Anthropology (3.0 cr)
ANTH 8510 - Topics in Archaeology (3.0 cr)
ANTH 8810 - Topics in Sociocultural Anthropology (3.0 cr)
CHIC 5374 - Migrant Farmworkers in the United States: Families, Work, and Advocacy [CIV] (4.0 cr)
CI 8416 - Speculative Fiction, Radical Imagination, and Social Change (3.0 cr)
CI 8645 - Indigenous Language Revitalization and Activist Research Methods (3.0 cr)
GWSS 5104 - Transnational Feminist Theory (3.0 cr)
GWSS 8260 - Seminar: Race, Representation and Resistance (3.0 cr)
HIST 5890 - Readings in American Indian and Indigenous History (3.0 cr)
HIST 5910 - Topics in U.S. History (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
HIST 8910 - Topics in U.S. History (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
HIST 8960 - Topics in History (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
HIST 8970 - Advanced Research in Quantitative History (3.0 cr)
HSPH 8003 - Race and Indigeneity in Heritage Representation (3.0 cr)
PA 5690 - Topics in Women, Gender and Public Policy (0.5 - 3.0 cr)
PA 8690 - Advanced Topics in Women, Gender and Public Policy (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
POL 8260 - Topics in Political Theory (3.0 cr)
SOC 8090 - Topics in Sociology (1.5 - 3.0 cr)
SOC 8190 - Topics in Law, Crime, and Deviance (3.0 cr)
SOC 8211 - The Sociology of Race & Racialization (3.0 cr)

Program Sub-plans

Students are required to complete one of the following sub-plans.
Students may not complete the program with more than one sub-plan.

Masters

Doctoral

Interdisciplinary Methodologies (3 credits)

Doctoral minors select 1 of the following courses in consultation with the RIGS director of graduate studies:

AMST 8289 - Ethnographic Research Methods: Research Strategies in American Studies (3.0 cr)
ANTH 8203 - Research Methods in Social and Cultural Anthropology (3.0 cr)
COMM 8110 - Seminar: Communication Research Methods (3.0 cr)
GWSS 8201 - Feminist Theory and Methods in the Social Sciences (3.0 cr)

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