

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 6915S  
Date of Senate Approval 04/09/15

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 54 (IST):      Establish a U.S. Ethnic Studies minor within Interdisciplinary Studies  
Revised**

**Effective Date: Fall 2015**

**1. Add:** On page 186, before the entry for the Legal Studies minor:

**INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES: U.S. ETHNIC STUDIES (ETHN)**

The U.S. Ethnic Studies minor allows students to approach the study of race and ethnicity in the United States from multiple perspectives in order to gain a broad foundational knowledge of the field. The curriculum investigates the role of community, history, and politics on racial identity and the experience of race and ethnicity in the historical and contemporary United States, often connecting local and domestic issues with their larger global contexts. The interdisciplinary nature of the minor is consistent with the nature of the field of Ethnic Studies and facilitates a holistic approach to the study of race and ethnicity. Courses focus on issues around race and ethnicity in three thematic categories: Arts and Culture, History and Politics, and Power and Institutions.

**Minor in U.S. Ethnic Studies**

At least 18 hours distributed as follows: ETHN 100 and additional courses from the electives listed below, to include at least one course from the Arts and Culture listing, one course from the History and Politics listing, and one course from the Power and Institutions listing. Courses for the U.S. Ethnic Studies minor must be chosen from at least three disciplines, and no more than two courses used to fulfill the requirements of other majors, minors, or concentrations may be used for this minor. Special topics or other courses may be substituted with the approval of the program director.

University-wide minimum requirements for a minor: 1) one-half of the hours required for a minor must be completed in residence at UNC Asheville, to include at least 6 hours at the 300-400 level; 2) students must have a cumulative grade-point-average of at least 2.0 on minor courses taken at UNC Asheville.

**Arts and Culture**

- ARTH 365 Art Since 1945 (4)
- ARTH 386 Arts of the African Diaspora (4)
- LANG 368 Poetics of Identity and Perception (4)
- LIT 328 Ethnic Literatures (4)
- LIT 346 Readings in Gender and Sexuality: Queer of Color Literature and Theory (4)
- LIT 368 Poetics of Identity and Perception (4)
- LIT 488 Seminar in a Major Author: Toni Morrison (4)
- MUSC 343 African American Music: Slavery to Swing (3)
- MUSC 344 African American Music: R&B to Hip Hop (3)

### **History and Politics**

ANTH	360	America and the Middle East (4)
HIST	302	African American History, 1865 to the Present (3)
HIST	303	Colonial North America (3)
HIST	307	Women in the Modern Civil Rights Movement (3)
HIST	309	History of the "Old South" (3)
HIST	382	American Indian History, Precontact to 1840 (3)
PHIL	304	Social and Political Philosophy (4)
POLS	343	Politics of the Civil Rights Era (4)
POLS	344	Black Political Thought (4)
SOC	240	Evolution, Revolution and Social Change (4)
SOC	359	Women of Color and Feminism (4)

### **Power and Institutions**

CLAS	365	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (4)
ECON	230	Sports and Economics (3)
HWP	250	Health Parity: Domestic and Global Contexts (3)
HIST	388	Introduction to Islam (3)
LIT	365	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (4)
RELS	313	Religion in American Since 1865 (4)
RELS	387	Religion and Culture of Judaism (4)
RELS	388	Introduction to Islam (4)
RELS	389	Jewish Women and Religion (4)
SOC	200	Criminology (4)
SOC	221	Race and Ethnic Relations (4)

### **Courses in Ethnic Studies (ETHN)**

#### **171-4, 271-4, 371-4, 471-4 Special Topics in Ethnic Studies (1-4)**

Courses not otherwise included in the catalog listing but for which there may be a special need. May be repeated as often as permitted and as subject matter changes. See program director.

**Impact:** There will be minimal impact on the resources and staffing of university-wide departments due to this change. ETHN 100, Introduction to U.S. Ethnic Studies, is the only one new course being added at this time, as the proposed program otherwise draws entirely from pre-existing course offerings from departments across campus. The greatest potential impact would be in the form of student interest, meaning that some courses may experience greater-than-usual enrollment as the program grows.

**Rationale:** This program is being proposed in order to address growing concerns from students, faculty, and administrators about diversity at UNC Asheville. The creation of a U.S. Ethnic Studies minor will allow interested students to pursue a course of study that focuses on issues surrounding race and ethnicity. Furthermore, offering such a minor will help demonstrate UNC Asheville's commitment to diverse groups of people, both on and off the university campus. Since the proposed U.S. Ethnic Studies minor is inclusive (meaning it embraces studies of a wide range of people, including African American, Arab American, Asian American, Chicano/a, Jewish American, Latino/a, Native American communities), it should appeal to a diverse array of students.