Purpose Statement

This 15-credit transcripted “Race & Social Justice Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate” is designed as an area of specialization for students pursuing a master's degree or a doctorate in disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, fine arts, or the professional schools at the University of New Mexico. It was approved at the April 8, UNM Regents meeting and it will be in the Fall 2016-Spring 2017 catalog.

Against the backdrop of contemporary and on-going historic racial inequities in housing, health, education, employment and criminal justice, this certificate provides students the opportunity to become part of a vibrant interdisciplinary community as they complete an education program that is anchored in a critical examination of normative understandings of contemporary and historic racial inequalities. It is important to underscore the word “interdisciplinary”, as the benefits of interdisciplinary dialogues, reflection and collective insights that are facilitated when faculty and students from different disciplines converge to explore the contours of race and social justice in the U.S and global context are monumental.

Goals

• Address pressing concerns regarding racial inequities and social justice in the 21st Century
• Illustrate and interpret the historical, political, social, psychological, cultural, and/or economic dimensions of race, racialization, difference and power, integrating these into an interdisciplinary perspective;
• Investigate and interpret the social construction of race in a given sociohistorical context as well as reflecting on the premises, concepts and categories used in different disciplines to conceptualize race and racism
• Ensure our graduates stand out among potential applicants for academic, policy and other social service employment

Student Learning Outcomes

(1) Students will illustrate and interpret the historical, political, social, psychological, cultural, and/or economic dimensions of race, racialization, difference and power, integrating these into an interdisciplinary perspective;

(2) Students will read write about, discuss, and engage in critical scholarly inquiry, problem-solving and public presentations related to race and social justice;

(3) Students will acquire a basic level of knowledge about U.S. and/or local, global social justice movements that are anchored in racial justice;

(4) Students will be aware of opportunities to go from theory to practice by exposure to community-engaged research and teaching opportunities as well as career and post-graduate opportunities their certificate makes possible.
Structure

Conceived as an interdisciplinary experience a total of 15-credits of graduate level courses will be required (total of five courses). No more than six (6) credits can be completed in the same department, including the student’s home department. No more than three (3) credits may be designated as independent study or field courses; the no more than six (6) credits in one department applies to independent study credits. If a student is interested in applying three (3) independent study credits including field courses, she/he should seek approval from the faculty advisor before initiating the independent study. It is important that students meet with the faculty and staff advisor at the beginning of the certificate program of study so that they can design a coordinated course of study for the student.

Who can apply?

The 15-credit transcripted “Race & Social Justice Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate” is open to all current graduate students already matriculated in a graduate degree-granting program (e.g. master’s or doctoral program) at the University of New Mexico, regardless of field of study. It is not a stand-alone graduate certificate and therefore not open to nonmatriculated students. Please keep in mind that for some of the preprofessional graduate programs, there may be restrictions on enrollment for specific courses. For more information about course enrollment restrictions by individual programs, please consult the course catalog and class schedule.

Application Requirements

--Working on application link. More information forthcoming at the race.unm.edu website in Summer/Fall 2016. You may also email: race@unm.edu. The certificate will be included in the Fall 2016-Spring 2017 catalog. Those seeking to graduate Fall 2016 may be able to earn the certificate if they meet the minimum requirements.