2025-2026 UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG | COURSES OF STUDY

Ethnic Studies

Division of Social Sciences

- Minor: 18 credit hours
- Minor GPA required for graduation: 2.25

Description of Minor: Individuals who complete this program will gain comparative insight into how scholars from different disciplines – including history, religion, sociology, literature, writing, communication, and psychology – pose and answer questions about race and ethnicity. Students who minor in ethnic studies will enroll in a variety of courses designed to help them understand the construction and functioning of ethnicity both in the United States and in a global context.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Analyze diverse ethnic communities in a sympathetic and even-handed manner.
- Explain how racial/ethnic heritage can influence the way people understand and relate to the world around them.
- Discuss the effects of racial or ethnic prejudice in American society, including their own lives.
- Function more effectively as citizens in our increasingly pluralistic society.
- Relate more empathetically to people from diverse racial or ethnic backgrounds.

Degree Preparation: The ethnic studies minor complements McKendree's more traditional liberal arts majors as well as its professional courses of study. This minor benefits students in professional programs seeking knowledge to enhance a selected career path just as much as students in traditional liberal arts contemplating graduate study in their fields. Students from all majors would thrive with an ethnic studies minor.

ETHNIC STUDIES MINOR REQUIREMENTS 18 cr		
HIS 276	MINORITIES IN THE	
	AMERICAN EXPERIENCE	3
or		
HIS 376	MINORITIES IN THE	
	AMERICAN EXPERIENCE	3
* FIVE CO	URSES FROM THE FOLLOWING	
ANT 149	INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL	
	ANTHROPOLOGY	3
ENG 254	AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE	3
HIS		
277/377	AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY	3
MGT/		
MKT 340	INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS	3
MUS 265	MUSIC IN WORLD CULTURES	3
PSI 210	INTRODUCTION TO WORLD POLIT	ICS 3
PSI 220	COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT	3
REL 240	RELIGION AND RACE	3
REL 250	RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD	3
SOC 360	RACE AND ETHNIC RELATIONS	3

(6 credits must be at the 300 level or above.)

Apply Today! (FREE) | Request Information | Contact Us | Visit Us | Learn More | www.mckendree.edu

2025-2026 UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG | COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

History (HIS)

HISTORICAL METHODS

An exploration of historical thinking, writing, and research intended to develop skills needed for success in upper-level courses. The evolution of historical writing from earliest times to the present is also examined.

HIS 161

HIS 110

WORLD CIVILIZATIONS I

A comparative survey of early civilizations in Asia, Africa, and Europe from prehistory to the dawn of Modernity.

HIS 162

WORLD CIVILIZATIONS II

A comparative survey of world civilization from the dawn of Modernity to the Contemporary Age.

UNITED STATES HISTORY TO 1877

A survey of American history from prehistory through the Civil War.

HIS 262

UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE 1877

A survey of American history from the Civil War to the present.

INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC HISTORY

This course introduces students to the diverse field of public history, including archives management, museums, and oral history. The course includes theoretical discussion as well as practical experiences.

HIS 271/371

UNITED STATES WOMEN'S HISTORY

The course examines the way in which women have shaped the American past and the ways in which large historical forces have influenced women's lives. Those students taking the course as HIS 371 will be required to write a major research paper, in addition to other required writings. Students may elect to take this course at one level, but not both.

HIS 275/375

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

A survey of environmental history in the United States, this course provides an overview of the changing relationship between human societies and the natural world. Students taking this course as HIS 375 will be required to complete a major research project in addition to other required writings. Students may elect to take this course at one level, but not both.

HIS 276/376

MINORITIES IN THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

A survey of minorities in American history, this course will

compare and contrast the histories of the various ethnic groups that make up the American population. Students taking this course as HIS 376 will be required to write a major research paper in addition to other required writings. Students may elect to take this course at one level, but not both.

HIS 277/377

1

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

An introduction to the study of African American History, including the history and culture of Western Africa, the Atlantic slave trade, slavery and its effects, as well as the roles, lifestyles, problems, and accomplishments of African Americans from the Colonial period until the present. The course will focus on the African American community analyzing major political, social, economic, religious, cultural, and intellectual trends, patterns, and leaders. Those students taking the course as HIS 377 will be required to write a major research paper, in addition to other required writings. Students may elect to take this course at one level, but not both.

HIS 280-284

1-3

TOPICS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Studies in specialized areas of American History. This course will cover topics or areas not included in the regular curriculum.

HIS 285-289

1-3

TOPICS IN WORLD HISTORY

This course will be of a topical nature or cover regions or nations not included in the regular curriculum.

HIS 310

3

SEMINAR IN HISTORICAL RESEARCH Students will define individual topics for their senior research

paper after completing a historiographical survey on the proposed topic and identifying major research sources available. This course will lead to the writing of a research proposal to be carried-out in HIS 410. Required of all history majors.

HIS 311

3

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS (W)

A study of the ancient civilizations of the Near East, Greece, and Rome from prehistory to the fall of the Roman Empire.

3

MEDIEVAL HISTORY (W)

A study of the period between the fall of the Roman Empire and the Renaissance with a major emphasis on the analysis of primary source materials.

HIS 313

3

EARLY MODERN EUROPE: 1450-1815 (W)

A study of the development of European civilization from the Renaissance through the Napoleonic Era.

HIS 314

3

MODERN EUROPE: 1815-1945 (W)

A study of European civilization from the Congress of Vienna to 1945.

Apply Today! (FREE)

2025-2026 UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG | COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

3

3

History (HIS)

HIS 316

Tilistory (Tilis)

GLOBAL LGBTQ IDENTITY AND MOVEMENTS

An examination and study of international LGBTQ identity and movements. This course surveys the geopolitical complexities, triumphs, and challenges for transnational LGBTQ advocacy efforts from the mid-nineteenth century to the present.

HIS 321 3 COLONIAL AMERICA AND THE REVOLUTIONARY ERA (W)

A study of Colonial America from its origins in North American pre-history and European expansion through the English Colonies to about 1821. Prerequisite: HIS 261 or instructor consent.

HIS 323 DIVISION AND REUNION: 1820-1877

A study of Manifest Destiny, rising sectional tensions, the Civil War, and the Reconstruction Era.

HIS 324 3 THE EMERGENCE OF MODERN AMERICA: 1890-1945

A study of the emergence of modern America as a major industrial and world power from the end of Reconstruction to the outbreak of World War I.

HIS 326 3

AMERICA SINCE 1945

A study of the history of the United States from the end of World War II to the present.

HIS 331 3 ILLINOIS HISTORY

A survey of the history of Illinois from the earliest times to the present.

HIS 345 AMERICA BY EAR: MODERN AMERICA THROUGH SONG

This course utilizes the medium of music as a lens to explore aspects of modern American history, culture, and society. Prior completion of HIS 262 is recommended.

HIS 372 3

AMERICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

This course surveys the economic history of the United States from the colonial era to the present. Among the topics to be considered are the mercantile economy of British North America, the economics of slavery, the Industrial Revolution, the cycles of boom and bust, the rise of the service economy in the information age, and the globalization of American economic influence.

HIS 380-84 1-4

TOPICS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Studies in specialized areas of American History. This course will cover topics or areas not included in the regular curriculum.

HIS 385-89 1-4

TOPICS IN WORLD HISTORY

This course will be of a topical nature or cover regions or nations not included in the regular curriculum.

HIS 410 SENIOR THESIS IN HISTORY (W)

This course focuses on the writing of a professional quality research paper based on primary source materials. Students will also be involved in a seminar situation requiring scholarly criticism of each other's papers on a chapter by chapter basis. Completed papers will be presented orally before the campus community. Prerequisites: HIS 110, 310. Required of all history majors.

HIS 470 3-8 INTERNSHIP IN HISTORY

HIS 480 1-4

INDEPENDENT STUDY IN HISTORY

Individual research in specialized topic areas. Offered only to advanced students on a contractual basis, with consent of history faculty.

Apply Today! (FREE) | Request Information | Contact Us | Visit Us | Learn More | www.mckendree.edu