

## Programme Specification

Postgraduate Programmes

<b>Awarding Body/Institution</b>	University of London
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Goldsmiths, University of London
<b>Name of Final Award and Programme Title</b>	MA Race, Media and Social Justice
<b>Name of Interim Award(s)</b>	Postgraduate Certificate Race, Media and Social Justice Postgraduate Diploma Race, Media and Social Justice
<b>Duration of Study/Period of Registration</b>	1 year full time or 2 years part-time
<b>UCAS Code(s)</b>	N/A
<b>QAA Benchmark Group</b>	N/A
<b>FHEQ Level of Award</b>	Level 7
<b>Programme Accredited by</b>	N/A
<b>Date Programme Specification last updated/approved</b>	June 2016
<b>Primary Department/Institute</b>	Media & Communications

<b>Departments which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme</b>
Sociology

### Programme overview

Following a groundswell of campaigning (e.g. Lenny Henry and Idris Elba on media diversity) and social media activism (#oscarssowhite, #blacklivesmatter) issues of race and racism, particularly in relation to representation and the media have been forced onto the news agenda. The aim of the programme is to offer a rigorous and academic approach to this subject and deepen students' understanding of contemporary issues regarding race and ethnicity, in order to form their own interventions that can contribute to social justice and equality.

The programme will provide an in-depth exploration of research and scholarship into race and ethnicity across the overlapping fields of sociology, media and cultural studies. An interdisciplinary approach is employed to give students the analytical tools and skills to explain and critique why contemporary understandings and representations of race take the shape that they do. The programme is broadly framed in terms of issues social justice, specifically the social ideals of equality, valuing diversity, and the right to live in dignity, and how this relates to the formation of racial and ethnic identities.

The degree consists of two main components:

The first is designed to give students a foundation in sociological and critical cultural approaches to race and ethnicity, offering a strong conceptual basis for understanding matters of race and racialisation historically and with regard to contemporary contexts and debates. This includes a critical analysis the social/political theory of the liberal/ multicultural/postcolonial/cosmopolitan settlements of 'race'. The aim is to deepen students' understanding of the formation of ethnic and racial identities, racism and multiculturalism in relation to issues of social justice.

The second component situates the study of race and racism more explicitly within the context of the media, looking at issues of representation and the persistence of historical constructions of Otherness. The unique intervention of the degree is in drawing attention to the context of production, exploring the experience of people of colour working in the cultural industries. This component will be enhanced by be a series of industry talks from BAME practitioners working in the creative, cultural and communication industries, which will give students a practical insight into the experience of race in the media.

## Programme entry requirements

Applicants should have (or expect to be awarded) an undergraduate degree of at least upper second class standard in a relevant/related subject. However, consideration may also be given to students without an academic background in a relevant subject area if they have professional experience in this area or are able to demonstrate their ability and commitment to the pursuit of a programme of rigorous academic study.

Non-native speakers of English will need to meet our English language requirements to study with us. For this programme we require:  
IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum of 6.5 in the written test and no individual test lower than 6.0)

If you need assistance with your English language, we offer a range of courses that can help prepare you for postgraduate-level study.

## Aims of the programme

- Demonstrate an informed understanding of the complexities of race social justice activism and research
- To understand the formation of ethnic and racial identities in relation to social justice specifically the social ideals of equality, valuing diversity, and the right to live in dignity
- To understand how modern understandings of race and ethnicity are shaped by history and the legacies of empire and colonialism, as well as contemporary forces of commercialism and global capital
- To develop an in-depth understanding of key theoretical approaches to race and ethnicity and media apply them to critically examine current debates on race, ethnicity and racism
- To recognise the media as a key site where understandings of race and ethnicity are simultaneously reinforced and challenged
- To develop the critical and analytical skills to identify, explain and evaluate discourses of race and ethnicity, particularly in the media
- To develop knowledge and/or skills that can be applied in a practical work context

## What you will be expected to achieve

You will develop a body of knowledge, and a set of cognitive skills enabling you to explain and critically analyse contemporary debates on race and racism and the media and representation. Students are required to develop skills that will enable them to contribute to this body of knowledge, but which will also be of use in a broader range of professional contexts, particularly related to diversity, equality and social justice.

Students who exit the programme at the Postgraduate Certificate stage should be able to:

<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>A1</b>	Demonstrate an understanding of how modern understandings of race are shaped by histories of empire	'Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and the Cultural Industries'

  

<b>Cognitive and Thinking Skills</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>B1</b>	Utilise conceptual knowledge and critical reasoning skills in complex problem solving	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries' or option module
<b>B2</b>	Deploy a range of intellectual skills and linguistic tools to produce academic work of an appropriate	'Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries'

level	or option module
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<b>Subject Specific Skills and Professional Behaviours and Attitudes</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>C1</b>	Use a range of methods and sources to construct arguments of your own	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries' or option module
<b>C2</b>	Make presentations to a group of people with an appropriate range of technology	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries' or option module

<b>Transferable Skills</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>D1</b>	Demonstrate to a very high level a range of transferable skills such as 'communication skills, skills of initiative and personal responsibility', decision-making and 'the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development' (QAA).	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries' or option module

Students who exit the programme at the Postgraduate Diploma stage should be able to:

<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>A1</b>	Demonstrate an understanding of how modern understandings of race are shaped by histories of empire	- 'Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries' or option module
<b>A2</b>	Demonstrate an understanding of how the media both reinforces and challenges understandings of race	Race and Cultural Industries'
<b>A3</b>	Demonstrate an informed understanding of the complexities of social justice activism and research in relation to race and media	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' 'Race and Cultural Industries'
<b>A4</b>	Develop an in-depth knowledge of another subject area	Option modules

<b>Cognitive and Thinking Skills</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>B1</b>	Utilise conceptual knowledge and critical reasoning skills in complex problem solving	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries' or option module
<b>B2</b>	Deploy a range of intellectual skills and linguistic tools to produce academic work of an appropriate level	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries' or option module
<b>B3</b>	Critically assess and evaluate media and cultural policy relating to equality and diversity	Race and Cultural Industries'

<b>Subject Specific Skills and Professional Behaviours and Attitudes</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>C1</b>	Use a range of methods and sources to construct arguments of your own	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries' or option module
<b>C2</b>	Make presentations to a group of people with an appropriate range of technology	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries' or option module

<b>C3</b>	Apply theories of cultural and media production to professional media and cultural practices	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' 'Race and Cultural Industries'
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<b>Transferable Skills</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>D1</b>	Demonstrate to a very high level a range of transferable skills such as 'communication skills, skills of initiative and personal responsibility', decision-making and 'the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development' (QAA).	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries' or option module
<b>D2</b>	The ability to initiate new projects, deploying a range of organisational, research and communication skills and take responsibility for seeing such projects through to completion.	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries' or option module

Students who successfully complete the MA Race, Media and Social Justice programme will be able to:

<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>A1</b>	Demonstrate an understanding of how modern understandings of race are shaped by histories of empire	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries' or option module
<b>A2</b>	Demonstrate an understanding of how the media both reinforces and challenges understandings of race	Race and Cultural Industries'
<b>A3</b>	Demonstrate an informed understanding of the complexities of social justice activism and research in relation to race and media	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' 'Race and Cultural Industries'
<b>A4</b>	Develop an in-depth knowledge of another subject area	Option modules
<b>A5</b>	Develop a robust knowledge of both key theories of race and racism, and critical media approaches to race and representation	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' 'Race and Cultural Industries' Dissertation

<b>Cognitive and Thinking Skills</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>B1</b>	Utilise conceptual knowledge and critical reasoning skills in complex problem solving	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries' or option module
<b>B2</b>	Deploy a range of intellectual skills and linguistic tools to produce academic work of an appropriate level	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries' or option module
<b>B3</b>	Critically assess and evaluate media and cultural policy relating to equality and diversity	Race and Cultural Industries'
<b>B4</b>	Demonstrate the ability to work independently and critically in the production of an original research project.	Race and Cultural Industries' Dissertation

<b>Subject Specific Skills and Professional Behaviours and Attitudes</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>C1</b>	Use a range of methods and sources to construct arguments of your own	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries'

		or option module
<b>C2</b>	Make presentations to a group of people with an appropriate range of technology	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries' or option module
<b>C3</b>	Apply theories of cultural and media production to professional media and cultural practices	Race and Cultural Industries' Dissertation
<b>C4</b>	Apply different qualitative social research methods	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' Race and Cultural Industries' Dissertation

<b>Transferable Skills</b>		<b>Taught by the following modules</b>
<b>D1</b>	Demonstrate to a very high level a range of transferable skills such as 'communication skills, skills of initiative and personal responsibility', decision-making and 'the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development' (QAA).	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries' or option module
<b>D2</b>	The ability to initiate new projects, deploying a range of organisational, research and communication skills and take responsibility for seeing such projects through to completion.	Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics' or 'Race and Cultural Industries' or option module
<b>D3</b>	The capacity to undertake independent research in one or more of the areas covered by the programme to a high standard.	Race and Cultural Industries' Dissertation

### How you will learn

The acquisition of knowledge and understanding and cognitive learning outcomes is through weekly lectures, seminars and workshops so that core knowledge gained through reading and lectures may be reinforced through seminar participation, discussion and debate.

The core module Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics consists of a one hour lecture and a one hour seminar each week. The aim of the seminars is to provide a forum for discussion and emphasis is placed on student participation. Students are expected to read the key articles or chapters set for each week and be able to contribute fully to the discussions.

The Race and Cultural Industries module will consist of weekly workshops. The workshops are interactive sessions based around group discussion and practical exercises that will develop your understanding of media practices and cultural production. Both modules will involve presentations based on weekly readings or a set topic, delivered to the whole group.

The acquisition of the second set of subject specific and transferable skills learning outcomes is achieved by students' full participation in the structured learning activities and the completion of examined and non-examined work that will involve considerable independent study. Students will also receive feedback from tutors throughout the programme in seminars and in response to their examined work. Tutorial support is available to advise students on their progress in skill acquisition in both theoretical and more practical work.

In preparing for the dissertation, students will receive intensive one-to-one tutoring over a prolonged period, which allows them to devise their own original contribution to the field. Most, if not all of the learning outcomes – from the capacity to produce an original map of the field, to retrieve and evaluate information, to work to deadline – are condensed and applied in the process of preparing and delivering

the dissertation with the guidance of tutors.

### How you will be assessed

A mixture of assessed essays, exams and reports appropriate to each module choice.

The assessment for Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics consists of a set of coursework essay questions. You will also have the option of formulating your own question in consultation with staff teaching the module. This opportunity will enable students to apply their learning to specific topics relevant to their own interests.

Race and the Cultural Industries will consist of two assessments. The first assignment consists of a research project which asks students to conduct and critically examine an interview with a media worker, in relation to an issue discussed on the module. If the student is unable to find an interview subject they can instead analyse a media text that represents creative work (such as an interview in a trade magazine), again in relation to an issue discussed on the module. The purpose of this assignment is to introduce students to qualitative research methods as well as hone their critical analytical skills. The second assessment will involve an essay assignment similar to Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics, with students picking one from a range of questions.

All students will complete a dissertation based on independent research, which is supported by a module in research skills training delivered by the Department of Media and Communications.

Other forms of assessment maybe be encountered (e.g. group presentations/reports, portfolio exercises) depending on option modules chosen.

### Marking criteria

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	Distinction (Outstanding/Exceptional)	A mark of 80-100% is awarded when a candidate satisfies the requirements for a distinction, but to an outstanding degree. Such work may be of publishable quality and contribution to debate within the field.
70-79%	Distinction	A mark of 70-79% is awarded when the essay demonstrates the application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the learning outcomes of the module to a very effective extent. The work will show evidence of extensive relevant reading and an impressive grasp of current major issues in the field. This knowledge will have been reviewed critically with insight and independence of thought. Arguments and the presentation of evidence will demonstrate sophisticated reasoning, with clear awareness of issues of methodology and evidence, and be particularly clear, well-focused and cogent. A mark of 80% or higher is awarded when a candidate satisfies the requirements for a distinction, but to an outstanding degree. Such work may be of publishable quality, and will be a significant contribution to debate within the field.
60-69%	Merit	A mark of 60-69% is awarded when candidates demonstrate the application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the module learning outcomes to an effective extent. The essay will show consistency and fluency in discussing and evaluating evidence and theories drawn from a wide range of sources.

		They will demonstrate an ability to relate this reading to their topic, and will clearly have understood and assimilated the relevant literature. A mark of 50-59% is awarded when the essay demonstrates the application of appropriate knowledge, understandings and skills specified in the learning outcomes of the module to a satisfactory extent. There is clear evidence of knowledge and understanding, but where there may be limited development of ideas, critical comment or methodology. Within these limitations there will be indication that the candidate has grasped fundamental concepts and procedures in the field.
50-59%	Pass	A mark of 50-59% is awarded when the essay demonstrates the application of appropriate knowledge, understandings and skills specified in the learning outcomes of the module to a satisfactory extent. There is clear evidence of knowledge and understanding, but where there may be limited development of ideas, critical comment or methodology. Within these limitations there will be indication that the candidate has grasped fundamental concepts and procedures in the field.
30-49%	Fail	A mark of 30-49% is awarded when the candidate demonstrates an unsatisfactory application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the Learning Outcomes of the module
10-29%	Bad fail	A mark of 10-29% is awarded when the assessed work demonstrates a significant overall failure to achieve the Learning Outcomes, and where there is no evidence of recognition of the question nor of how it might be responded to.
1-9%	Very bad fail	A submission that does not even attempt to address the specified learning outcomes.
0%	Non submission or plagiarised	A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit an assessment or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment.

### How the programme is structured

Full-time students take the programme over one calendar year. Part-time students take the course over two calendar years. Formal teaching takes place in the autumn term (eleven weeks) and spring term (eleven weeks). The summer term is designed for revision, assessment, and for intensive dissertation preparation.

The programme consists of the following two core modules worth 30 credits each:

- Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics (autumn term)
- Race and the Cultural Industries (spring term)

Students are also required to complete a dissertation worth 60 credits.

Students are also required to take 60 credits worth of option modules, which can be taken from those on offer (depending on availability each year) from the departments of Media and Communication, and Sociology and from other departments too, including Politics, English, Cultural Studies and Anthropology. Issues of race run through many of the modules offered at Goldsmiths. Modules that will be of particular interest to students on this programme include:

- Race, Gender and Social Justice (Soc)
- Race, Empire and Nation (Media and Comms)
- Music as Communication and Creative Practice (Media and Comms)
- Latin American Politics through the Arts (Politics)
- Visualising Asia - Body, Gender and Politics (Politics)
- Politics of the Audio-Visual (Media and Comms)
- Historicising the field (of Black British writing) (Theatre and Performance)
- Genre and aesthetics (of Black British writing) (Theatre and Performance)

In order to complete their first year, part-time students need to successfully complete two of the core courses in their first year. Normally part-time students will take optional courses in the second year, and complete their dissertation at the end of that year.

#### Academic Year of Study 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics	MC71192A	30	7	Core	1
Race and the Cultural Industries	MC71191A	30	7	Core	2
Dissertation	MC71193A	60	7	Core	3
Optional modules to the value of 60 credits		60	7	Optional	1/2

#### Academic support

Goldsmiths is committed to making any reasonable adjustment that allows, as far as possible, for equality of opportunity and access, and to ensuring that students are not substantially disadvantaged because of specific learning difficulties or disability.

Students will be encouraged to disclose information about any impairment or health condition that may affect their studies. This information will enable the university to arrange any support or advice that may be useful, and will not be used to judge students in any way. Further information about disability support at Goldsmiths can be found at [http:// www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/disability/disability-team.php](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/disability/disability-team.php).

The Media and Communications department recognises the importance of high-quality teaching and tutorial support. Non-native speakers of English will be encouraged to take classes at the English Language Unit, which provides both general language skills and specific support for Media courses. Native English speakers will also be encouraged to supplement their formal education with support from the English Language Unit to help them improve the quality and style of their written work. Information about the English Language Unit, Learning Resources and the subject librarian will be incorporated into the first compulsory course in the autumn term.

All students will be allocated a personal tutor and will be encouraged to make use of them throughout the programme to discuss any personal or academic matters that may affect their work in the department. The programme convenor, course convenors and course tutors all have weekly office hours, and will be available to discuss any issues arising throughout the course of study. Students may arrange an appointment with any member of staff via email or telephone. Programme information, a student handbook, and timetable details are sent to students in advance of the beginning of term. Specific information will be available on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), at both a departmental level and through the VLE resources dedicated to this programme.

Students will also develop and maintain a Personal Development Plan (PDP) during the course of study. This will record aspirations, plans and goals, record achievement against goals, and enable



progress monitoring in order to achieve personal student aims. The course convenor will be available to discuss PDPs with students. The PDP will be integrated within a general portfolio of all assessment feedback and marks via a central resource on the VLE.

In addition, Goldsmiths provides a wide range of support services for all students, including assistance with financial matters, disability support, counselling services and careers advice. Full details can be found on the College web site ([www.gold.ac.uk](http://www.gold.ac.uk)), and personal tutors will also be able to direct students to relevant contacts and support services.

### **Links with employers, placement opportunities and career prospects**

Designed to run alongside the core module Race and the Cultural Industries will be a series of industry talks involving practitioners who work in the creative, cultural and communication industries. The talks – mostly given by practitioners from BME backgrounds – will provide real-life illustrations of the issues tackled on the degree, as well give students practical advice about working in these industries. Drawing from the extensive list of contacts of staff in the department as a whole (which has excellent links to industry), we will invite speakers from a range of sectors including broadcasting (both the BBC/C4, and independent television sector), music, the arts, publishing, PR and marketing, social media, and diversity practitioners who work in a range of industries.

While there are no work placement module the degree has a strong emphasis on professional development:

- ï The degree will teach graduates the ability to recognise and account for sensitive ethical issues relating to research and representation. Consequently these skills will be suited for any career that is related to issues of diversity and equality whether in government and public administration, NGOs/charities, policy or business. Many industries require communications professionals who have the ability to speak to diverse audiences, which are roles that will be particularly suited to graduates from this degree.
- ï With its in-depth analysis of media/cultural production this degree is perfectly suited for those interested in working in the cultural and creative industries and who want to work with issues around race and ethnicity. The Race and the Cultural Industries core module will work with real-life case studies to demonstrate how different kinds of media/ cultural organisations have dealt with issues of race, racism, diversity, colonial legacies and so on. Moreover, the industry talks are aimed to give practical insights and advice about working in these industries. As such while this is a robust and rigorous academic degree there is a strong vocational emphasis too.

More broadly, students on this degree will develop their skills in critical thinking, teamwork and project design and implementation. These are transferable skills that are desirable across the public, private and third sectors.

### **The requirements of a Goldsmiths degree**

#### **Master's Degrees**

All Master's degrees at Goldsmiths have a minimum value of 180 credits. Programmes are comprised of modules which have individual credit values. In order to be eligible for the award of a Master's degree students must have passed all modules on the programme.

#### **Intermediate Exit Points**

Some programmes incorporate intermediate exit points of Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma, which may be awarded on the successful completion of modules to the value of 60 credits or 120 credits respectively. Individual programmes may specify which, if any, combination of modules are required in order to be eligible for the award of these qualifications. The awards are made without classification.

## Final Classification

There are four possible categories of final classification for Master's degrees: Distinction, Merit, Pass and Fail.

In order to be awarded an overall classification of Distinction, students should have obtained:

a mark of at least 70% (or A grade) for the dissertation/project (or equivalent)  
AND  
EITHER a mark of 70% (or A grade) in at least half of the remaining credits.  
OR an overall weighted average mark (based on credit value) of at least 70%

In order to be awarded an overall classification of Merit, students should have obtained:

a mark of at least 60% (or B grade) for the dissertation/project (or equivalent)  
AND  
EITHER a mark of 60% (or B grade) in at least half of the remaining credits.  
OR an overall weighted average mark (based on credit value) of at least 60%

Pass: In order to be awarded an overall classification of Pass must have passed all the modules on a programme but not have met the criteria for the award of an overall classification of Merit or Distinction

Fail: If any module on a programme has been failed on more than one occasion the programme will be failed

For further information, please refer to the Regulations for Postgraduate Taught Students, which may be found here: <http://www.gold.ac.uk/governance/studentregulations/>

## Programme-specific rules and facts

### Interim Exit awards

In order to be considered for the award of a PGCert in Race, Media and Social Justice a student must have passed modules to the value of 60 credits, which must include at least one of the core modules ("Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics" or "Race and the Cultural Industries")

In order to be considered for the award of a PGDip in Race, Media and Social Justice a student must have passed modules to the value of 120 credits, which must include both of the core modules ("Race Critical Theory and Cultural Politics" or "Race and the Cultural Industries")

## How teaching quality will be monitored

Goldsmiths employs a number of methods to ensure and enhance the quality of learning and teaching on its programmes. Programmes and modules must be formally approved against national standards and are monitored throughout the year in departmental staff / student forums and through the completion of module evaluation questionnaires. Every programme also has at least one External Examiner who produces an annual report which comments on the standards of awards and student achievement. This output is considered with other relevant data in the process of Annual Programme Review, to which all programmes are subject, and which aims to identify both good practice and issues which require resolution.

Every six years all programmes within a department are also subject to a broader periodic review. This aims to ensure that they remain current, that the procedures to maintain the standards of the awards are working effectively and the quality of the learning opportunities and information provided to students and applicants is appropriate.

Detailed information on all of these procedures are published on the webpages of the Quality Office (<http://www.gold.ac.uk/quality/>).