

MA Race, Media and Social Justice

Programme Specification

Awarding Institution:

University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' College)

Teaching Institution: Goldsmiths, University of London

Final Award: MA Race, Media and Social Justice

Programme Name: MA Race, Media and Social Justice

Total credit value for programme:180

Name of Interim Exit Award(s):

Postgraduate Certificate in Race, Media and Social Justice

Postgraduate Diploma in Race, Media and Social Justice

Duration of Programme: 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

UCAS Code(s): Not applicable

HECoS Code(s): (100444) Media and Communication Studies

QAA Benchmark Group: Not applicable

FHEQ Level of Award: Level 7

Programme accredited by: Not applicable

Date Programme Specification last updated/approved: July 2023

Home Department: Media, Communications and Cultural Studies

Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Sociology

Programme overview

Histories and contemporary structures of colonialism, imperialism, and inequality demand urgent understandings of race and racism in relation to social justice. Furthermore, issues of race and racism, particularly in relation to media, culture, and politics, have been brought to global attention by activists, artists, academics, and communities facing and resisting racialized violence. The aim of the programme is to offer a rigorous and academic approach to the subject of race and media and deepen students' understanding of contemporary issues regarding race, racism 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, racism and ethnicity across the overlapping fields of sociology, media, communications and

cultural studies, and gender/feminist 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 and racism take the shape that they do and how these can be understood by paying attention to histories, presents, and structures and systems of global politics and culture. The programme is broadly framed in terms of issues of social justice, specifically the social ideals of equality, valuing diversity, and the right to live in dignity, and how this relates to the production and mobilisation 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 and culture, the persistence of historical constructions of Otherness, the intersections of race with other forms of power, and the continuations of Empire and coloniality.

The unique intervention of the degree is also in drawing attention to the experience of those working in the cultural industries and in grassroots and activist organisations. This component will be enhanced by be a series of talks from BAME practitioners working in the creative, cultural and communication industries and from individuals and collectives working in race and social justice-focused grassroots organisations, which will give students a practical insight into the experience of race in the media and struggles against racism and racialized violence. The programme is taught jointly by Media, Communications and Cultural Studies and Sociology and is embedded in the Department's ethos of diversity and interdisciplinarity. This is reflected in the combination of theory and practice which allows us to challenge norms and engage with real-world issues. The programme is theory-driven, but grounded in practice and social justice. Students can choose up to 30 credits of practice option modules. Students are also given opportunities to apply theory to actual empirical problems through their dissertation project and additional assignments and presentations. In both compulsory modules, students are able to deliver assessments that are engaging with practice in creative ways and bringing together theory and practice to address urgent issues.

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).

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

Programme learning outcomes

A Postgraduate Certificate in Race, Media and Social Justice will be awarded to students who achieve 60 CATS by passing both compulsory modules, Race, Empire and Nation and Race Critical Theory and Social Justice. Students awarded the Postgraduate Certificate will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Systematically understand key aspects of how modern understandings of race are shaped by histories of Empire and colonialism and contemporary forces of capitalism and imperialism.	Race, Empire and Nation; Race Critical Theory and Social Justice
A2	Develop an in-depth understanding of key theoretical approaches to race and racism, particularly in relation to media and culture, and apply them to critically examine current debates on race and social justice	Race, Empire and Nation; Race Critical Theory and Social Justice
A3	Demonstrate an informed understanding of the complexities of race social justice activism and research	Race, Empire and Nation; Race Critical Theory and Social Justice
A4	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	Race, Empire and Nation; Race Critical Theory and Social Justice
A5	Understand how race is co-constituted by and intersects with class, gender, sexuality, and disability.	Race, Empire and Nation; Race Critical Theory and Social Justice

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Utilise conceptual knowledge and critical reasoning and analysis skills in complex problem solving and the development of independent thought	Race, Empire and Nation; Race Critical Theory and Social Justice
B2	Deploy a range of intellectual skills and linguistic tools to produce academic verbal and written work of an appropriate level	Race, Empire and Nation; Race Critical Theory and Social Justice
B3	Critically assess and evaluate media and cultural policy relating to equality and diversity	Race, Empire and Nation

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Act autonomously to engage with a range of methods and sources to construct arguments of your own.	Race, Empire and Nation; Race Critical Theory and Social Justice
C2	Develop and deploy the critical and analytical skills to identify, explain and evaluate discourses of race, racism and ethnicity, particularly in relation to media, culture, and social justice.	Race, Empire and Nation; Race Critical Theory and Social Justice

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Use a range of methods and sources to construct arguments of your own	Race, Empire and Nation; Race Critical Theory and Social Justice; Options; Dissertation
D2	Demonstrate to a very high level a range skills such as communication (verbal and written), presentation and use of technology, initiative and personal responsibility, decision-making and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development	Race, Empire and Nation; Race Critical Theory and Social Justice

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D3	Apply theories of race and racism to cultural and media practice and professional work and social justice work	Race, Empire and Nation; Race Critical Theory and Social Justice

A Postgraduate Diploma in Race, Media and Social Justice will be awarded to students who achieve 120 CATS by passing both compulsory modules as well as 60 CATS of options. Students awarded the Postgraduate Diploma will also be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Present advanced and systematic knowledge of recent and relevant literature in the field of media, communications and cultural studies and demonstrate a critical awareness of current theoretical problems.	Option modules
A2	Consolidate and deepen their understanding of related subject areas in which they have an interest through the choice of options offered on the programme.	Option modules

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Systematically and creatively engage in debates and develop reflective commentary taking into account a range of views and perspectives from disciplines including media, communications and cultural studies.	Option modules

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Engage with and apply wider debates and practices in media, communications and cultural studies.	Option modules
C2	Demonstrate that they can produce significant pieces of written work of a high academic standard (i.e. adequately researched, planned and structured, clearly written, well- presented and following academic conventions).	Option modules

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Demonstrate a range of advanced communication and discussion skills in written and oral contexts that deepen your knowledge of theories related to the study of race, media and social justice.	Option modules

In addition to the Learning Outcomes for the Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma, students who successfully complete MA Race, Media and Social Justice will also be able to:

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Demonstrate a systematic and advanced understanding of relevant theoretical concepts and methodologies, identifying strengths, weaknesses and gaps.	Final Dissertation
A2	Appreciate a range of methodological issues surrounding the production of innovative research in areas related to race, media and social justice.	Final Dissertation
A3	Advance their critical understanding of one particular issue related to the study of race, media and social justice.	Final Dissertation

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Identify and apply appropriate theoretical concepts and methodologies in response to existing empirical or theoretical problems and/or suggest lines of enquiry relevant to those contexts.	Final Dissertation

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Design and undertake a specialist research project, organise the findings, and present them in the form of a single-authored, original piece of academic writing.	Final Dissertation
C2	Act autonomously in the execution of a piece of research and take responsibility for both ethical and practical decisions, and for presenting the findings in a clear and coherent form.	Final Dissertation
C3	Debate salient academic, ethical and technical issues relevant to research methods, and draw on this awareness in designing an effective research project.	Final Dissertation

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Show independence and creativity in self-learning, exercise initiative and taking personal responsibility for work.	Final Dissertation
D2	Apply different qualitative social research methods to design and conduct independent research in one or more of the areas covered by the programme to a high standard	Final Dissertation

Grading 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.

Mode of study

On campus.

Attendance at all lectures and seminars is mandatory.

Programme structure

Students who complete the two compulsory modules worth 30 credits each, Race Critical Theory and Social Justice and Race, Empire and Nation may exit with a Postgraduate Certificate in Race, Media and Social Justice.

Students who complete the two compulsory modules 30 credits each: Race Critical Theory and Social Justice and Race, Empire and Nation as well as 60 credits worth of option modules may exit with a Postgraduate Diploma in Race, Media and Social Justice.

To earn an MA, students are required to pass two compulsory modules, optional modules to a value of 60 credits and a dissertation. The compulsory modules will be worth 30 credits each, the options modules will be to a total value of 60 credits, and the dissertation is worth 60 credits.

MA Race, Media and Social Justice

Full-time mode

Academic year of study 1

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Race, Empire and Nation	MC71039D	30	7	Compulsory	Autumn
Race Critical Theory And Social Justice	SO71136B	30	7	Compulsory	Spring
Dissertation	MC71139A	60	7	Compulsory	Spring/ Summer

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Optional modules to the value of 60 credits	Various	60	7	Optional	Autumn and Spring

Part-time mode

Academic year of study 1

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Race, Empire and Nation	MC71039D	30	7	Compulsory	Autumn
Race Critical Theory And Social Justice	SO71136B	30	7	Compulsory	Spring

Academic year of study 2

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Optional modules to the value of 60 credits	Various	60	7	Optional	Autumn and Spring
Dissertation	MC71139A	60	7	Compulsory	Spring and Summer

Academic support

Support for learning and wellbeing is provided in a number of ways by departments and College support services who work collaboratively to ensure students get the right help to reach their best potential both academically and personally.

All students are allocated a Personal Tutor (one in each department for joint programmes) who has overall responsibility for their individual progress and welfare. Personal Tutors meet with their student at least three a year either face-to-face, as part of a group and/or electronically. The first meeting normally takes place within the first few weeks of the autumn term. Personal Tutors are also available to students throughout the year of study. These meetings aim to discuss progress on modules, discussion of the academic discipline and reports from previous years if available (for continuing students). This provides an opportunity for progress, attendance and assessment marks to be reviewed and an informed discussion to take place about how to strengthen individual learning and success.

All students are also allocated a Senior Tutor to enable them to speak to an experienced academic member of staff about any issues which are negatively impacting their academic study and which are beyond the normal scope of issues handled by Programme Convenors and Personal Tutors.

Students are provided with information about learning resources, the [Library](#) and information available on [Learn.gold \(VLE\)](#) so that they have access to department/programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and guidance.

Taught sessions and lectures provide overviews of themes, which students are encouraged to complement with intensive reading for presentation and discussion with peers at seminars. Assessments build on lectures and seminars so students are expected to attend all taught sessions to build knowledge and their own understanding of their chosen discipline.

All assessed work is accompanied by some form of feedback to ensure that students' work is on the right track. It may come in a variety of forms ranging from written comments on a marked essay to oral and written feedback on developing projects and practice as they attend workshops.

Students may be referred to specialist student services by department staff or they may access support services independently. Information about support services is provided on the [Goldsmiths website](#) and for new students through new starter information and induction/Welcome Week. Any support recommendations that are made are agreed with the student and communicated to the department so that adjustments to learning and teaching are able to be implemented at a department level and students can be reassured that arrangements are in place. Opportunities are provided for students to review their support arrangements should their circumstances change. The [Disability](#) and [Wellbeing](#) Services maintain caseloads of students and provide on-going support.

The [Careers Service](#) provides central support for skills enhancement, running [The Gold Award](#) scheme and other co-curricular activities that are accredited via the Higher Education Achievement Report ([HEAR](#)).

The [Centre for Academic Language and Literacies](#) works with academic departments offering bespoke academic literacy sessions. It also provides a programme of academic skills workshops and one-to-one provision for students throughout the year.

Placement opportunities

MA Race, Media and Social Justice does not include programme-specific placements

Employability and potential career opportunities

The Department of Media, Communications and Cultural Studies has a strong record of employment prospects for its graduates. Graduates from postgraduate programmes in the department have won numerous awards for their practice work, and have gone on to a variety of jobs: some in the media industries, some in professional fields less directly related to the media, some in grassroots organisations, and some into further academic research.

The MA Race, Media and Social Justice has a strong emphasis on professional development. The degree will teach graduates the ability to recognize and account for sensitive ethical issues relating to research and representation. It teaches important transferrable skills (such as critical analysis, communication, development of verbal and written work, independent thought etc.) Consequently, these skills will be suited for any career that is related to issues of race, social justice, diversity and equality whether in government and public administration, NGOs/charities/grassroots organisations, media and cultural industries, academia, 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. With its in-depth analysis of media/cultural production this degree is also perfectly suited for those interested in working in the cultural and creative industries and who want to work with issues around race and ethnicity. It is also well suited to those who want to work in local, national, and international social justice and policy organisations, particularly those tackling issues around racism. The Race, Empire and Nation core module will demonstrate how different kinds of media/ cultural organisations have dealt with issues of race, racism, diversity, colonial legacies and so on. The Race Critical Theory and Social Justice module provides a robust theoretical understanding that can be translated into practice and professional work. Moreover, the talks that are organized with the MA are aimed to give practical insights and advice about working in media and grassroots organisations. As such while this is a robust and rigorous academic degree there is a strong vocational emphasis and students go on to work in different fields. 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.

Programme-specific requirements

None

Tuition fee costs

Information on tuition fee costs is available at: <https://www.gold.ac.uk/students/fee-support/>

Specific programme costs

None