

# Bachelor of Arts in **Cultural Studies**

0918



## **WHAT DO STUDENTS LEARN?**

In Chatham's interdisciplinary BA in Cultural Studies, you have the opportunity to examine issues of race, ethnicity, class, and culture through a variety of lenses as your professors teach you to draw on social, cultural, and literary theories in your critical analysis of cultural materials within their social contexts. Cultural studies is a cutting-edge, interdisciplinary major that examines issues of race, class, ethnicity, and culture in order to prepare you for the global job market of the 21st century. At Chatham, you will gain a sophisticated lens for analyzing and engaging with society and culture. Our caring, dedicated faculty will challenge you to sharpen your critical thinking, writing, and research skills as you become more civically engaged.

## **WHAT DO GRADUATES GO ON TO DO?**

A cultural studies degree from Chatham University prepares students to work in a number of settings where diversity and social change are a priority, such as non-profit businesses and civil rights organizations, as well as entry-level positions in law, marketing, publishing, business, non-profit work, film, and advocacy.

When you major in cultural studies, you will explore topics central to the University's mission from a different, and important, perspective. For example, you might investigate environmental issues in terms of environmental racism, asking questions such as why food deserts are so prevalent in low-income, inner city neighborhoods or why certain states in our nation bear the largest number of toxic waste sites. This same methodology allows us to approach the topics of global understanding and gender identity as interrelated concepts.



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- All students complete a capstone seminar that channels the knowledge they've accumulated into a discipline-specific project under close faculty guidance. Chatham is one of the few universities across the country that offers such an independent and student-driven program.
- If you choose to pursue a concentration in African American studies, you will delve even deeper into the history, culture, politics, religion, and literature of the African Diaspora — the communities created by the dispersion of peoples from the African continent.
- Students benefit from the resources of the Chatham University Women's Institute, which provides opportunities including programming, a certificate in Women's Leadership, and involvement in community initiatives.
- Co-sponsored by the Chatham University Women's Institute and screened on campus, *Just Films* is an annual series that shows documentaries focused on gender equity and social justice, usually being shown in Pittsburgh for the first time.
- Chatham is walking distance to many of Pittsburgh's cultural institutions and organizations, including the Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Music Hall, and the Frick Fine Arts Museum.

## SAMPLE COURSES

### Representations Of Race And Gender

This course introduces students to the methodology of cultural studies. In this survey students learn those skills essential to analyzing social constructions of identity. Specific attention is paid to diverse texts, including film, in order to locate how representations of race, gender, ethnicity, and “otherness” are culturally produced and disseminated.

### Critical Theory

Critical theory offers a critical study of the key debates in theories of media and communication interfaced with cultural studies. This course also examines the communication circuit from production to consumption within the broader paradigms of cultural studies, feminism, politics of identity, and theories of ideology and postmodernism. Connections are made between these debates and wider debates in communication studies.

### Toni Morrison Seminar

This seminar is a study of Toni Morrison’s literature within the context of African-American critical theory. Through Morrison’s work, students will engage in current issues regarding the politics of language, narrative authority, historical revision, the production of meaning, and African-American subjectivity.

► [www.chatham.edu/creativewriting/curriculum.cfm](http://www.chatham.edu/creativewriting/curriculum.cfm)



“In the cultural studies program at Chatham University, students use critical theories to examine many texts in their richly varied forms, including international films, street art, TV commercials, hip hop videos, Hollywood blockbusters, and print advertisements. Cultural studies classes are theoretically sophisticated and quite engaging.”

— ANISSA WARDI, PH.D., *professor of English*



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