

Alliance for Constructive Ethnic Studies

Introduction to Ethnic Studies

Course Overview

This survey course provides an overview of the experiences and contributions of ethnic groups in the United States that have been marginalized or targets of hate crimes. The course provides information that honestly addresses the racism and discrimination experienced by previous generations, and that many still face, acknowledging how obstacles were and can still be overcome.

In addition to addressing racism honestly, course goals include:

- Building mutual respect, self-confidence, awareness, intergroup understanding and empathy
- Increasing engagement by enabling students to see themselves in the curriculum
- Presenting a range of perspectives and approaches to bringing about change

This course is divided into seven units as follows:

- Unit 1: Introduction to Ethnic Studies and Identity
- Unit 2: Black Americans
- Unit 3: Hispanic/Latino Americans
- Unit 4: Asian/Pacific Islander Americans
- Unit 5: Native Americans
- Unit 6: Immigrant Experiences: Acculturation and Assimilation
- Unit 7: Shared Experiences

The experiences of the four core communities are centered, while honoring diversity of individuals and diversity of thought, in order to combat monolithic stereotyping that contributes to marginalization.

The following are **representative learning outcomes** for this course:

- Examine the process of identity formation as individuals, communities, states, and as a nation.
- Explore the meaning of race as it pertains to individuals and communities.
- Evaluate how images can be used to stereotype or marginalize an individual or groups.
- Analyze and describe the effectiveness of the various approaches employed by different leaders of the Civil Rights Movement.
- Explore the push-pull factors that led to Asian immigration to the U.S.
- Examine the contributions of Latino Americans in helping to end school segregation.
- Analyze the worldviews, values, spiritual traditions, cultures, and contributions of various Native American peoples.
- Examine connections between current and historical events.
- Analyze (im)migration patterns of ethnic groups and the value of preserving language and culture.
- Examine the idea of American citizenship and how hyphenated Americans self-define.

This course meets the requirements established by the California AB-101 and the State Board of Education for a California Ethnic Studies Curriculum. Consistent with the History-Social Science Framework, the course fosters student inquiry and includes "curriculum, resources, and materials which include a balance of topics, authors, and concepts, including primary and secondary sources that represent multiple, and sometimes opposing, points of view or perspectives."