

Ethnic Studies Community Outreach

January 30, 2024



PALO ALTO
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Assembly Bill 101

- AB 101 adds the completion of a one-semester course in ethnic studies to the graduation requirements commencing with pupils graduating in the 2029-30 school year.
- School districts and charter schools are required to offer an ethnic studies course commencing with the 2025-26 school year.



Ethnic Studies Committee

- Dr. Guillermo Lopez, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
- Ben Bolanos, Teacher, Palo Alto High School
- Tracie Carroll, Teacher, Gunn High School
- Justin Cronin, Teacher, Palo Alto High School
- Jeff Patrick, Department Instructional Lead & Teacher, Gunn High School
- Mary Sano, Department Instructional Lead & Teacher, Palo Alto High School
- Max Zipperstein, Teacher, Gunn High School
- Working with University of California, Berkeley [History Social Science Project](#)



Committee Work

2021



- AB 101 Passed

2022-23



- ES Committee Began

2023-25



- Continue ES Committee work, Community / Student input, and establishing academic partnerships

2025-26



- First year of implementation



Proposed Framework Units for Ethnic Studies

0. Why Ethnic Studies?
1. Identity
2. Race and Ethnicity
3. History and Migration
4. Language, Culture, Education, and Learning
5. Action and Civic Engagement



Course Description

This course will operate from the consideration that race and racism, have been, and continue to be, profoundly powerful social and cultural forces in American society. The class will examine California as a microcosm of the United States and focus on themes of social justice, social responsibility, and social change by increasing student agency. Ethnic Studies will use primary and secondary sources, class discussion, and project based learning as the basis for inquiry.

*The course will meet the graduation requirements outlined in AB101.



Unit 0: Introduction to Ethnic Studies

Essential Question: *Why Ethnic Studies?*

Focus Questions:

- What is Ethnic Studies?
- When did Ethnic Studies develop?
- How did Ethnic Studies evolve?
- Why is it important to learn about Ethnic Studies?
- Why is Ethnic Studies a required course?
- How is Ethnic Studies different from other Social Studies classes?
- Whom does Ethnic Studies impact?

Skills:

- Community Building
- Listening/Speaking
- Reading/Writing
- Building an Argument
- Responding to Ideas

Unit 1: Identity

Essential Question:

How are individual and group identities formed?

Focus Questions:

- How does your identity shape your daily life?
- How do we see ourselves?
- How do others see us?
- How does society see us?
- How should we see ourselves?
- How has history shaped our identity?
- What is our class identity?
- What is community?

Skills:

- Listening/Speaking
- Reading/Writing
- Researching
- Building an Argument
- Responding to Ideas
- Increasing Social Consciousness

Unit 2: Race and Ethnicity

Essential Question:

Where do racial ideologies and stereotypes come from and why do they matter?

Focus Questions:

- What is race?
- How is a race a social construct?
- How do prejudice and discrimination differ?
- What types of discrimination exist within institutional systems (social, political, economic)?
- What can be done to reduce prejudice and discrimination in communities?

Skills:

- Listening/Speaking
- Reading/Writing
- Researching
- Building an Argument
- Responding to Ideas
- Increasing Social Consciousness

Unit 3 : History and Migration

Essential Question:

How does history and migration impact various communities?

Focus Questions:

- What are different push and pull factors that caused migration to California?
- How have groups used dehumanizing tactics in history and how has it impacted our society?
- How do social, political, and economic systems impact power in communities?
- How are current migration patterns influencing communities?

Skills:

- Listening/Speaking
- Reading/Writing
- Researching
- Building an Argument
- Responding to Ideas
- Increasing Social Consciousness

Unit 4 : Language, Culture & Education

Essential Question:

How does ethnicity and race shape language, culture, and education?

Focus Questions:

- How does ethnicity and race shape cultural oppression?
- How do groups use culture to resist?
- Why do people resist?
- What are the forms of resistance?
- What role does education play in systems of power?

Skills:

- Listening/Speaking
- Reading/Writing
- Researching
- Building an Argument
- Responding to Ideas
- Increasing Social Consciousness



Next Steps (work in progress)

- Working with University of California, Berkeley [History Social Science Project](#)
- Progress on the course will be shared at our next meeting in late February or early March.