

Definition

Ethnic Studies courses operate from the consideration that race and racism, have been, and continue to be, profoundly powerful social and cultural forces in American society. These courses focus on the experiences of African Americans, Asian Americans, Chicanas/os and Latinas/os, Native Americans, and other racialized peoples in the US. Courses are grounded in the concrete situations of people of color, and use a methodological framing that emphasizes both the structural dimensions of race and racism and the associated cultural dimensions. (Adapted from UC Berkeley, Department of Ethnic Studies).

Guiding Principles

- Human relations is the lens through which our sex, gender, sexual orientation, religion and other identities influence the experiences of race and culture
- Centers on the experiences, histories, cultures, struggles and victories of African Americans, Asian Americans, Chicanos/Latinos, Indigenous peoples, *and other ethnic groups*
- Focus on the experiences of specific ethnic/racial groups within American history and society with an emphasis on truth and healing through empathy and education. Start with Native Americans as an anchor and move into Los Angeles/urban reality (local identity)
- Promotes social justice and social responsibility and empowers students to become agents of change in their communities
- Course operates from the consideration that race and racism have been and continue to be, profoundly powerful social and cultural forces in American society
- Promotes critical thinking about the complexity of the intersections of race with gender, class, sexuality and other systems of difference that have power effects and result in privilege