

Ethnic Studies Update

April 19, 2023

Purpose

Provide an overview of pertinent California law and the state's Ethnic Studies course as described through the California State Board of Education approved "Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum"

Share an implementation update on this year's Ethnic Studies pilot course and outline next steps

California Law

Assembly Bill 2016 was approved on September 13, 2016, and added Section 51226.7 to the Education Code, which directed the Instructional Quality Commission to develop, and the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt, a model curriculum in ethnic studies.

California SBE approved Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum on March 18, 2021 to assist high schools in developing ethnic studies courses.

California Assembly Bill 101 amended Section 51225.3 and California's high school graduation requirements on November 18, 2021 to now include an ethnic studies course commencing with students graduating in the 2029–30 school year

What is Ethnic Studies?

The History Social–Science Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten through Grade Twelve (2016) defines ethnic studies in the following:

“Ethnic studies is an interdisciplinary field of study that encompasses many subject areas including history, literature, economics, sociology, anthropology, and political science. It emerged to both address content considered missing from traditional curriculum and to encourage critical engagement.”

“As a field, ethnic studies seeks to empower all students to engage socially and politically and to think critically about the world around them. It is important for ethnic studies courses to document the experiences of people of color in order for students to construct counter-narratives and develop a more complex understanding of the human experience. Through these studies, students should develop respect for cultural diversity and see the advantages of inclusion.”

All of the lessons in CVUSD's Ethnic Studies course are from the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum adopted by the California State Board of Education

What is the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum?

The Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum shall:

- Include accurate information based on current and confirmed research;
- When appropriate, be consistent with the content and instructional shifts in the 2016 History–Social Science Framework, in particular the emphasis upon student-based inquiry in instruction;
- Promote the values of civic engagement and civic responsibility;
- Promote self and collective empowerment;
- Be written in language that is inclusive and supportive of multiple users, including teachers (single and multiple-subject), support staff, administrators, and the community;
- Encourage cultural understanding of how different groups have struggled and worked together, highlighting core ethnic studies concepts such as equality, justice, race, ethnicity, indigeneity, etc.

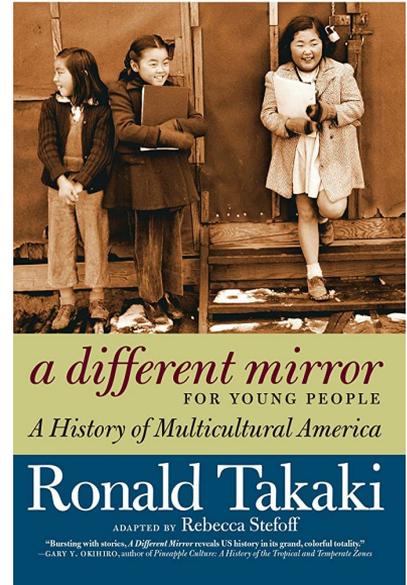
Teacher Training

- Review & analysis of Ethnic Studies course framework and model curriculum from CDE (2021-22 school year)
- UCSB ÉXITO Conference:
 - June 2022: 3 CVUSD teachers attended
 - June 2023: 5 CVUSD teachers and Dr. Dwight Rogers
- UCLA Ventura County In-Service Training April and May 2023
- Consultation and support from an Ethnic Studies mentor (1Shine)
- Monthly collaboration among the three current Ethnic Studies instructors
- Observation and feedback opportunities

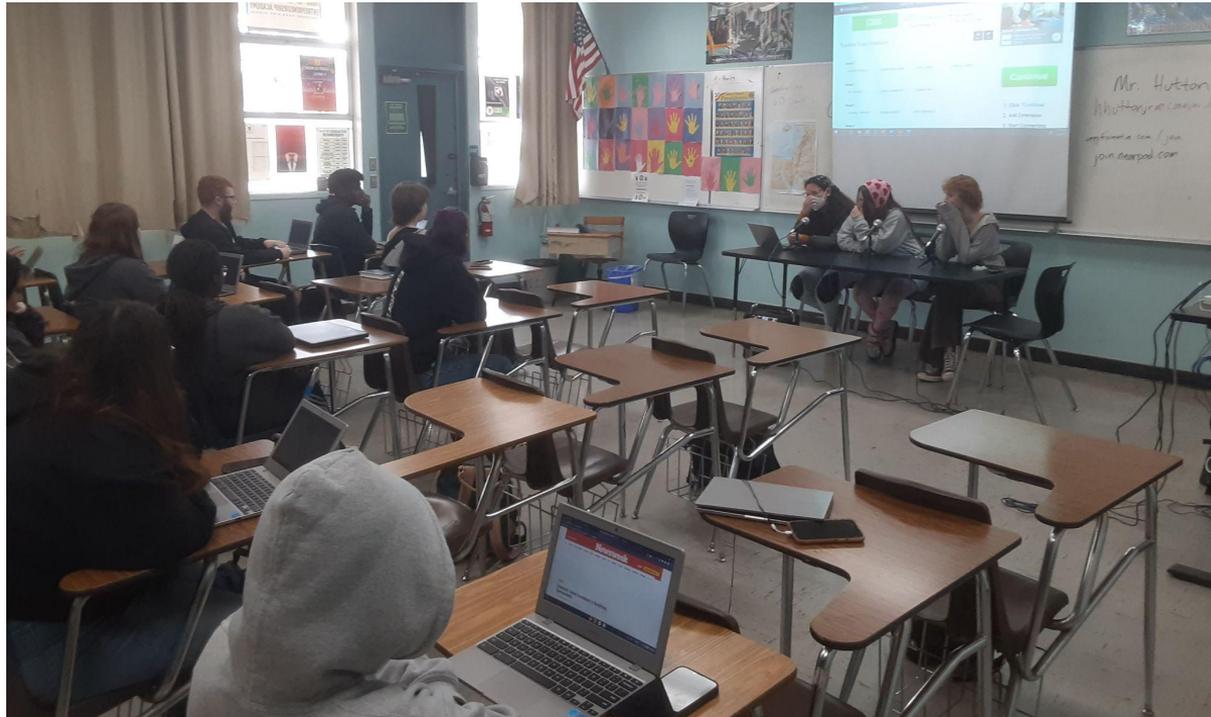
Examples of Key Instructional Strategies/Activities

Some examples include:

- Podcasting
- Identity assignment
- Gallery walk (Manifest Destiny)
- Reading & discussion with the text (*a different mirror*)
- Ethnic Studies information sessions presented to counselors and a history class on campus
- Field Trip: Holocaust Museum



Thousand Oaks High School: Discussing Japanese Mexican Labor Association Sugar Beet Strikes



Thousand Oaks High School: Student Reflections

“I have learned alot in class about other people and their struggles to achieve equality in the United States...”

Adriana G.

“ The field trips to the Museum of Tolerance and the Holocaust Museum of Los Angeles made me aware of how the world can overcome adversity together as a community...” Piper W.

“This class has helped me talk and open up about my thoughts and feelings about situations in the world...”

Mariah M.

Newbury Park High School - Identity Art Projects



Newbury Park High School: Student Reflections

“Ethnic Studies can help you become a better US citizen and help you in school by making you understand the differences of others.”

- NPHS student

“Students genuinely enjoy our class sessions and are receptive and eager to learn this content.”

- Jenna Chappell, NPHS Ethnic Studies teacher

“In Ethnic studies we really dive deeper into our past and learn. We not only learn more about our self and our backgrounds but we also learn about other people's. We get to see the past and see it through another perspective.”

- NPHS student

Westlake High School



Westlake High School: Student Reflections

A class that teaches the History we never learn from a perspective we never get to hear see- Brooke

Fun and good discussions about the world around us- Liliana

We get to learn about the activism and fight that many groups in America have struggled through over the years- Max

Why ES? Because we need it!- ML

We got to hear from an actual Holocaust survivor, his experiences, his pain and it was so emotional and amazing- Tony

District Wide Visit to Holocaust Museum of LA



Where We're Going Next

- Pilot-to-Permanent - SCAC has approved Ethnic Studies from a pilot course to permanent course. Next month, all current pilot courses will be brought forward to the Board of Education with the recommendation to be made permanent courses.
- Professional Development - Summer training at UCSB. Continued collaboration (monthly) with staff to create a master set of resources.
- Advertising - Site level efforts through info meetings at lunch, promotion through course request process, student t-shirts, promos in school newsletters and communications home, and marketing to 8th grade students and families.
- Enrollment Growth - This year, 88 students took Ethnic Studies. Next year, the goal is multiple sections at each comprehensive high school and 1 section at CVHS. Goal is 100 students at each comprehensive site for 23-24.

Questions?