

Ethnic Studies

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- My parents wanted us to be colorblind.
- “You are a pretty girl for Black”
- I didn't feel like I was Asian American.
- 1/200 and 1/33

ETHNIC STUDIES is...

- 1968 STRIKE INITIATED by **BSU & TWLF @ SF STATE**: The student and faculty strike started on November 6, 1968 and lasted until March 21, 1969, making it the longest strike by students at an academic institution in the United States
- Organizations involved (besides Black Student Union/BSU): Latin American Student Organization (LASO), Intercollegiate Chinese for Social Action, the Mexican American Student Confederation, the Philippines (now Pilipino) American Collegiate Endeavor (PACE), the Native American Students Union, and Asian American Political Alliance
- Ethnic Studies' origin story shapes its purpose. **Ethnic Studies is one of the only fields of study students fought for.** Imagine students, primarily teenagers and those in their early 20s, joined by college faculty and staff, going on strike for five months and shutting an entire university down to demand Ethnic Studies.
- Goals: **ACCESS, RELEVANCE, & COMMUNITY (ARC)**

Framework for Ethnic Studies



Vision: Ethnic Studies at Cuyamaca College is an interdisciplinary field that centers the identities, epistemologies, intellectual traditions, stories, and creativity of communities of color in the first person. Our department's purpose is to develop a community of students and faculty that value:

Values	Student Outcomes
Collective liberation and solidarity	Students will draw inspiration from themselves and the world around them--especially to uplift vulnerable and racially marginalized communities--ultimately to resist oppression by grounding themselves in collective action that pursues the betterment of our communities.
Critique of domination and supremacy in the pursuit of racial justice	Students will analyze and disrupt racism and other systems of power (including the effects of colonialism, imperialism, white supremacy, hetero/patriarchy, and capitalism) by interrogating power dynamics as they seek liberation for indigenous peoples and communities of color.
Critical consciousness through interdisciplinarity and intersectionality	Students will grow their critical consciousness through exposure to and practice of multiple disciplines and heighten their awareness of multiple truths and realities, including their own intersectional social locations.
Connectedness, care, and empathy	Students' wellness will be centered, which will lead to feelings of being seen, heard, and connected to each other and their instructors.
Community- and self-actualization	Students will engage in growth-oriented processes, aspiring toward their hopes and dreams by uplifting themselves and their communities.

- “On the other hand, I get the notion of my white privilege, like when my friend Maria yells at me to change my headlight, or put my front license plate on my car for fear that I will get pulled over. The truth is I probably won’t get pulled over. I haven’t been pulled over since I was a young driver in a crappy car. Not even when I forgot to renew my license for two months that one summer. I have a total “mom car” and to the authorities I don’t look like someone who will “cause trouble”. Not only do I not get racially profiled, but I do not have to hold onto an anxiety about how authority figures perceive me. It’s not great being a middle aged mom in the sense that I’ve become invisible to a lot of the world...”

- “...However, I can’t imagine trying to be kind to someone who dislikes you for simply having a different ethnicity. Any deviation away from being polite and perfect will only fuel their confirmation bias toward you and your culture. Having different looks and customs might seem strange out of context, but it is no grounds for discrimination. I believe the culture tried to convince me that different cultural and ethnic groups were “other”. Because I was part of the white American dynamic, I was supposed to see myself as superior in some way. There are many white Americans that still view BIPOC people in this way. They only consider people of color as a “whole person” if they are a model minority. I relate because masking my own neuro-divergence can be exhausting. Pretending to be perfect, and people pleasing takes a huge toll on my mental health...”

A couple of things about the study of race...

- It's ok to see/notice race.
 - What's not ok is to attribute superior/inferior/negative due to race
 - This would be = racism
 - It's also important to take note of race in order to understand disparities
- There is a long history of racism that still impacts us in the present day.
- Race/ethnicity/Ethnic Studies isn't just about racism, it can also be about stories, intellectual traditions, knowledge that comes from marginalized communities...



Ethnic Studies
is love.