

# *Ethnic Studies 2023-2024*

*Ms.B | Room 1219 | MacDonald HS*

## Course Intro + Teaching Philosophy

Welcome to Ethnic Studies! We will practice being Historians as we unpack the past in order to understand the present world and create a better tomorrow. Ethnic Studies is intended to push your critical thinking, apply historical frameworks, and discuss important topics in a healthy, productive manner. We will be uncovering important truths of people across the world whose stories are not often told as well as dedicate time in class to learn about current events around us! And we'll do this all through fun and creative projects! As a social science teacher, one of my biggest priorities is to assure we can all learn with and from one another. You are all unique people with unique strengths, areas of growth, and experiences. I look forward to getting to know everyone and building a community together that honors all of us as the unique individuals that we are. Ultimately, I hope we can learn about the world and make it a better place :)

## Course Overview

Unit	CA Standards	Main Ideas / Skills	(Some) Big Projects
<b>Unit 1:</b> Intro to Ethnic Studies & Dominant / Counter Narratives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- CA 9-12.1</li><li>- CA 9-12.2</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand the history of Ethnic Studies as an official class</li><li>• Explain the difference between dominant and counter-narratives in history</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ethnic studies timeline</li><li>• Snapshot autobiography</li><li>• Children's book</li></ul>
<b>Unit 2:</b> Diverse Identities Shaping Lived Experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- CA 9-10.1</li><li>- CA 9-12.1</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Define key identity terms (race, ethnicity, citizenship, sexuality, etc.)</li><li>• Describe how different identities shape how people live</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tree of my life</li><li>• Identity portfolio (art, poem, essay utilizing key terms)</li></ul>
<b>Unit 3:</b> Systems of Power & Oppression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- CA 10-3.4</li><li>- CA 10-4.3</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Differentiate the 4 I's of oppression through historical case studies</li><li>• Recognize who/what holds power in today's day and age</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current events station rotation</li><li>• Group film analysis trifold</li><li>• Story of power slides</li></ul>
<b>Unit 4:</b> Youth Activism & Changing the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- CA 10-2.3</li><li>- CA 9-12.5</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analyze how youth have created change throughout history</li><li>• Compare and Contrast different activism tactics/strategies used for different sociopolitical movements</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Socratic circle</li><li>• Instagram infographic</li><li>• MHS Letter Writing campaign</li></ul>

## Grading Policies

Your grades are meant to be a reflection of the content and skills you learn. **Content** is the material itself (ex: dates, core terms, order of events, people, etc.). **Skills** are how we get to understand the material (ex: close reading a document, creating and supporting your own argument, comparing/contrasting historical events, etc.). All of the activities and lessons we do are intended to build your content understanding, historical thinking skills, and **community engagement** (think of this as 'being better people' skills that we will develop and includes things like being able to have an informed conversation with peers, understanding power dynamics, being a team member, finding the root causes of issues, brainstorm strategies for changing the world, etc.)

**Breakdown:** Your grade is broken down into different sections to accurately reflect your understanding of our class:

- Content = 35%
- Skills = 55%
- Community Engagement = 10%

### 4-point Scale:

<b>4</b> 🔥	A- to A+ (87% to 100%)	Above and beyond
<b>3</b> ✓	B- to B+ (68% to 86%)	Proficient
<b>2</b> OK	C- to C+ (50% to 67%)	Practicing / Emerging
<b>1</b> ⚠️	D- to D+ (25% to 49%)	Minimal
<b>0</b> 🚫	F (24% or below)	No Evidence

**Late Work:** I get it- things happen! The most important thing for late work is to communicate with me about what's going to be late and when you expect to turn in your work. I accept late work up until the end of the grading period so long as you communicate with me (I'm always here to help!)

**Other stuff you might be wondering:** There's no grade for homework because I don't really assign homework. Any homework you may have will be work that is not completed in class or opportunities to work on projects we are developing in class if you choose to work on them!

Materials for Class	Class Norms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charged computer/tablet</li> <li>• Binder / Section of a binder</li> <li>• Something to write with</li> </ul>	We will co-create these in class, but the general rule of thumb is ✨be kind✨ We will all make mistakes, and we'll learn from them together!

## Contact Information

**Email:**

**Caretaker Google form link:** <https://tinyurl.com/kaenn8jz>

**Student Google form link:** <https://tinyurl.com/2b4bw84y>

