

**MVLA  
2025-26  
COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**

**Course Title:** Ethnic Studies

**School:** Mountain View High School

**UC/CSU requirement:** Yes/Yes

**Textbook and/or other learning resources:** Readings, documentaries, primary and secondary source documents, and other outside resources.

**Teachers:** Ms. Burmeister, Ms. Caramagno, Mr. Heiken, Mr. Lipkin, Ms. Mangin, Mr. Ortiz, Dr. Yick

**Course Description/Student Learning Outcomes:**

Ethnic Studies is the interdisciplinary study of race and ethnicity, with an emphasis on the experiences and contributions of people of color (Asian Americans, Black and African Americans, Latina/Latino/Latinx, and Native Americans) in the United States. Students develop a deeper understanding of their personal identity, their racial and cultural backgrounds, and the diverse cultures of their peers. Students learn about the root causes and impact of racism and various forms of oppression. Ethnic Studies teaches students about historical and contemporary movements for social change and ways to challenge racism and discrimination and positively transform their communities. Students will strengthen their reading, writing, speaking, researching, and critical thinking skills. Ethnic Studies fosters empathy, community, and solidarity and helps students to develop knowledge and skills to become active participants in our democratic society.

**Course Outline/Units of Study**

Unit 1: What is Ethnic Studies  
Unit 2: Identity and Narratives  
Unit 3: Historical Origins of Systems of Power  
Unit 4: Immigration and Migration  
Unit 5: Education and Housing  
Unit 6: Justice System

**Assessment and Grading ([BP 5121](#) / [AR 5121](#)):** To ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their learning, the course instructors implement aligned grading practices and common assessments with the same frequency.

**1. Grading categories and their percentage weights**

Critical Thinking 30%  
Writing 30%  
Speaking and Listening 30%  
Preparation 5%  
Collaboration 5%

**2. Achievement evidence collected within each grading category**

- Critical Thinking: creative products, synthesis tasks, short-answer questions, and other content assessments
- Writing: Research, DBQ Essays, detailed outlines, free response essays
- Speaking and Listening: Engage in academic conversations and socratic seminars (in pairs, small groups and whole class) to practice speaking and listening skills and democratic discourse.
- Preparation: Being prepared for class with materials and a charged device. Having work

completed on time.

- **Collaboration:** Actively participating in class, working together with others to complete tasks and helping create a safe and welcoming environment for learning.

### 3. Grading scales:

Skill Level Name	Letter Mark	SIS/Aeries Final Grade Percent Scale
A+ / Advanced +	A+	96.66-100
A / Advanced	A	93.33-96.65
A- / Advanced -	A-	90-93.32
B+ / Proficient +	B+	86.66-89.99
B / Proficient	B	83.33-86.65
B- / Proficient -	B-	80-83.32
C+ / Basic +	C+	76.66-79.99
C / Basic	C	73.33-76.65
C- / Basic -	C-	70-73.32
D+ / Below Basic +	D+	66.66-69.99
D / Below Basic	D	63.33-66.65
D- / Below Basic -	D-	60-63.32
F / Far Below Basic	F	50-59.99

### 4. Homework/outside of class practices ([AR 6154](#)):

Teachers may assign homework or require students to complete work not completed in class.

### 5. Excused absence make up practices ([Education Code 48205\(b\)](#)):

Absent students are expected to check Canvas or Google Classroom and contact their teacher to arrange any make-up work. Makeup work should be completed within the number of days that a student missed.

Students are responsible for checking online resources (Canvas or Google Classroom) before returning to class to understand what has been missed. Assessments must be made up within a week after the original due date. Socratic seminars must be made on the makeup days designated by the teacher (usually 1-2 weeks after the date of the original Socratic seminar).

### 6. Academic integrity violation practices ([MVHS Academic Integrity Policy](#)):

Honesty, trust and integrity are vital components of the educational process. Examples of academic integrity violations include but are not limited to, copying homework, allowing someone else to copy your work, plagiarism, copying from another's exam, improperly obtaining and/or using tests or test information and the use of unauthorized notes/materials on exams. Please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook for information about violations of Academic Integrity and how violations will be handled. Generally students will receive no credit for an assignment that is in violation of Academic Integrity. Students should not collaborate online or digitally share individual assignments with other students, unless explicitly directed to do so by the teacher.

**7. Late work practices:** Turning work in on time is highly recommended as it affords time for teacher feedback and student revision of work. On-time assignments result in more learning and higher grades because students have the opportunity to practice skills and can use or expand on what is learned for homework in class. Students are permitted to turn in late work for proficiency grades, but will lose preparation points. Preparation grades cannot be revised. Make up assessments and late assignments should be turned in within 1 week of the original due date.

**8. Revision practices:** Because making and correcting mistakes is part of any learning process, students are encouraged to take advantage of revision opportunities. Students may revise most Critical Thinking, Writing, Speaking and Listening assignments. Students who score less than a 90% on Critical Thinking, Writing, or Listening and Speaking may resubmit or retake for earned credit up to 90%. The final assessment at the end of each semester may not be reassessed.

Revision time frame/deadlines will be communicated by the teacher, and vary by assignment.

**9. Extra credit practices:** We do not offer extra credit. The privilege to revise and reassess is the student's opportunity to increase their proficiency and overall grade

**10. Additional grading practices:** Digital assignments must be completed using the student MVLA account on the document provided by the instructor. Revision history must be viewable to guarantee academic integrity and authentic completion of the assignment by the student.

**11. LMS Used:** Canvas, Google Classroom

**Instructors' email addresses:**

Alisa Burmeister	<a href="mailto:alisa.burmeister@mvla.net">alisa.burmeister@mvla.net</a> , Canvas
Sophia Caramagno	<a href="mailto:sophia.caramagno@mvla.net">sophia.caramagno@mvla.net</a> , Canvas
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Julie Yick	<a href="mailto:julie.yick@mvla.net">julie.yick@mvla.net</a> , Google Classroom

**Additional information:**

We (the student and parent/guardian) have read the Ethnic Studies Course Information Sheet (CIS) together and understand the general outline and policies of the course presented here.

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Student first and last name (print)	Date
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Student signature	Date
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Parent / Guardian's name (print)	Date
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Parent / Guardian's signature	Date
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