

# ETHN 230: Introduction to Social Justice and Ethnic Studies / 35119

## Contact information

**Instructor:** Mrs. Shameeka M. Wilson-Brown, M.Ed

**Email Address:** [shameeka\\_wilson@cuesta.edu](mailto:shameeka_wilson@cuesta.edu)

**Phone Number:** NA – please contact via Cuesta College email (provided above) or Canvas Inbox messaging,

**Office Location/ Hours:** All Office Hours will be held via Zoom. (Zoom Link in the Canvas course)

1. Thursdays 10am – 12 pm
2. Thursday 3pm – 5 pm
3. 1:1 Request if these office hours do not work for your schedule

These hours are drop-in office hours, so you will not need a virtual appointment. If the virtual office hours do not work for your schedule, please email me and I will be happy to find a time that works best for your schedule.

## Instructor Contact Expectations:

The best and fastest way to contact me is email. I will generally respond to your emails within 24 -72 hours during weekdays only. During busy times of the semester, the response time may increase to 48 – 96 hours. On weekends, I will do my best to get back to you ASAP but I cannot guarantee an expeditious response. If you have not heard from me after 72 hours, please feel free to re-email me as your email may have gotten by me.

## Course Environment:

This online course will be using a Web-based Learning Management System Canvas as the method to disseminate information. Canvas provides the framework for the course including lecture material, student data files, the tools to receive and send course materials, and a grade book. Using the communication tools, you can communicate using e-mail, and you can share materials and ideas with other course participants via the discussion forums and groups.

## Accessing the Course:

You will see your course in Canvas on the first day of class. You can access Canvas by clicking on Canvas from the top bar of the Cuesta homepage ([www.cuesta.edu](http://www.cuesta.edu)), or by typing the Canvas address (<https://cuesta.instructure.com/>) into your browser address bar.

If you are not familiar with logging into canvas, please refer to the [Canvas Quick Reference Guide](#). Once logged into Canvas you will be directed on where to get started. Be sure to read all the direction on the course home page.

If you are having difficulty logging into Canvas after August 12, 2024, and need assistance please email me or technical support at this email address [support@my.cuesta.edu](mailto:support@my.cuesta.edu).

## Online Learning:

If you have never taken an online class or this is your first experience with Canvas, please be patient with yourself. Online classes are not inherently easier, although they may be much more convenient for many students. You should expect to spend at least as much time, if not more on this course as you would on a course that meets face to face. Since there is no lecture component, much of this time will be self-directed and there will be a substantial amount of reading, viewing, studying, and writing required. This course is completely online using Canvas; all coursework (discussions, assignments, quizzes) is submitted online. There are no face-to-face meetings. Please be prepared to spend 8 - 12 hours per week on coursework for this class

## IS an ONLINE CLASS FOR YOU?

Go to the **Cuesta College Canvas Tutorial (self-paced)**, there are many resources that were designed to help you understand the basis for an online class and the skills necessary for success. (If the tutorials do **NOT** describe you, then taking this class online is **NOT** for you and I strongly suggest that you drop the online class and enroll in a traditional classroom section.)

## Regular Effective Contact policy:

Regular and Effective Instructor Contact will be met through weekly instructor initiated threaded discussion forums; weekly announcements to students; timely and effective feedback on student assignments; email, Canvas Inbox messaging; and virtual office hours.

I have ~40-120 students to provide assignment feedback for, so I aim to provide assignment feedback within 72 hours to 1 week of the assignment due date. Please provide me grace as grading can take a lot of time -- especially to provide meaningful feedback to all my students.

Ideally, it is recommended to log into class at least twice per week to ensure you are making adequate progression with course content and course announcements.

## Course Description

Examines the racialized experiences of women in the United States, centering the expertise of Black/African American, Chicanx/Latinx, Asian American and Pacific Islander, Native American, and Indigenous feminist perspectives. Analyzes the dynamics of intersectionality, racism, settler-colonialism, patriarchy, and other forms of systemic oppression. Engages with interdisciplinary perspectives to demonstrate the unique contributions of Indigenous women and women of color to movements, society, and politics. Equips students with knowledge and skills to engage with current social issues and topics, such as criminalization, reproductive justice, media representations, and equity in higher education

## Student Learning Outcomes

After taking this course, students will be able to:

1. **Describe** key concepts as they are used by Ethnic Studies scholars, such as race, ethnicity, Indigeneity, citizenship, racialization, identity, and intersectionality.
2. **Critically analyze** systems of historical and current-day racial/ethnic oppression using social scientific and humanistic approaches, including ethno-centrism, eurocentrism, white supremacy, and settler-colonialism.

3. **Evaluate** and **compare** the historical struggles of Indigenous peoples and Native Americans, Black communities and African Americans, Chicanas/os/xs and Latinas/os/xs, and Asian Americans through the lens of traditional knowledge systems used within communities of color.
4. **Describe** and actively practice principles of anti-racism and social justice, including equity, self-determination, liberation, and decolonization.
5. **Assess** how current events are influenced by the history, culture, and traditions of communities of color by employing place-based analysis and community-engaged methods.

## Text Book and Materials

There is one required textbook for this class, which is listed below. This book is available as an Open Educational Resource and is posted online free of cost.

Fischer, Kay, Mario Alberto Viveros Espinoza-Kulick, Ulysses Acevedo, Teresa Hodges, Tamara Cheshire, and Melissa Leal. 2023. *Introduction to Ethnic Studies*. Open Educational Resource: LibreTexts.

This book will be posted on our Canvas course site and is also available online on the [LibreTexts website](#). You can view this as a digital PDF, print a copy, or purchase a printed and formatted copy.

In addition, journal articles, book chapters, and media will be assigned and made available on Canvas. Students are responsible for accessing these materials as required.

- Supplemental Materials that may be helpful, but not required, for the class:
  - Technology tools outside the LMS:
    - [Pronto](#)
    - ConferZoom
    - [Adobe reader](#)
    - [Microsoft Office for Free \(including word and powerpoint\)](#)
  - Additional Supplies for Course
    - Webcam, microphone

## Technical Support

Cuesta students are encouraged to direct all technical support inquiries to [support@my.cuesta.edu](mailto:support@my.cuesta.edu). If you are having issues with Canvas, or email [support@instructure.com](mailto:support@instructure.com).

If you are having difficulty viewing the course or logging in, it may be because you are not using the correct url: <https://cuesta.instructure.com/> or you are using your phone or using an unsupported browser.

Your learning environment is best accessed from a desktop or laptop computer, using Firefox or Chrome. This may solve your problem! Please review the [browser requirements and minimum computer specifications](#).

## Accommodations:

This course is designed using an accessible Learning Management System, and course materials have been created with ADA compliance in mind. If you have a disability and might need accommodations in this class such as extended time on exams or other resources. Please contact the instructor as soon as possible so that you can receive appropriate accommodations in a timely manner. You should also contact [DSPS \(Disabled Student Programs & Services\)](#) or at 805-546-3148.

## College & Course Policies:

### Academic Honesty Policy

You all are adults and there is no way that I can always monitor your engagement with this course. I believe we cheat ourselves in the learning process if we do not maintain academic honesty, so I ask that all students in this course do their own work free of plagiarism. Additionally, I cannot govern your engagement with ChatGPT; however, if you do use ChatGPT in your work, please write an acknowledge statement stating how you specifically used ChatGPT. In addition to my course policy, please note all students attending San Luis Obispo County Community College District at any district site and when representing Cuesta College in any off-campus activity, assume an obligation to conduct themselves in an acceptable manner compatible with the Student Code of conduct. Please review the [Cuesta College Student Code of conduct](#).

### Add / Drop Policy:

In the first week of class, students must complete all pages in the course overview module, including the Welcome Discussion, or they will be dropped. In addition to my policy, please review the Cuesta policy for drops

- [Add Policy](#)
- [Drop Policy](#)

### Waitlist Policy:

Please reach out to me via email if you find that the course is full, and you wish to be added to the course. I will then check-in with my supervisor and get back to you about your options for taking the course. Please allow 24 – 72 hours for a response about being waitlisted. In addition to my course specific procedures, please review [Cuesta's waitlist procedure and instructions](#).