ETHNIC STUDIES

Our mission at Saint Mary's College is to create a student-centered educational community whose members support one another with mutual understanding and respect. Implicit in our mission is a goal of increasing import to colleges and universities across the country, and that is to prepare students for leadership in a diverse democracy. Being prepared for a diverse democracy requires being literate in the intricate patterns that make up our shared history and a program on Ethnic Studies is a key source for that preparation.

Ethnic Studies is a multidisciplinary program that focuses on the United States with particular attention paid to the major underrepresented minority groups: African American, Latino, Asian American/Pacific Islander and Native American. It addresses issues of social justice, discrimination, immigration and globalization as well as the contributions that each ethnic group has made to American society. The Ethnic Studies major complements the College’s commitment to social justice and to fostering a diverse community respectful and appreciative of cultural difference.

FACULTY

Alvaro Ramirez, Ph.D., Professor, Director of Ethnic Studies Program
David Quijada, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Ynez Wilson-Hirst, Ph.D., Adjunct Associate Professor

ETHNIC STUDIES ADVISORY BOARD

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Ynez Wilson Hirst, Ph.D., Sociology

Ethnic Studies Curriculum

The educational goals of the Ethnic Studies Program for majors and minors include:

- exploring the cultural and social histories of African American, Latino, Native American and Asian American/ Pacific Islander ethnic groups.

- integrating Catholic social justice teaching, the Lasallian core values, and service based
learning in service of these historically underrepresented groups.

- critically examining United States racial and ethnic diversities and their interrelatedness to other international socio-historic systems.

Upon completion of the Ethnic Studies major, students will be able to:

- Describe the history and social theories relevant to a critical understanding of African American, Latino, Native American, and Asian American/Pacific Islander ethnic groups;
- Employ theoretical and analytical frameworks to understand an increasingly complex, multicultural and interdependent world;
- Identify the social, historical, economic, and religious factors that have affected and continue to affect ethnic groups in the U.S.;
- Exhibit critical thinking about issues of social injustice and the common good, and strategies for working towards social justice.

Curriculum Ethnic Studies

**Ethnic Studies Major Requirements**

The major will consist of eleven (11) courses total; two (2) lower division and nine (9) upper division.

**Lower Division Core**
Ethnic Studies 01: Introduction to Ethnic Studies
Ethnic Studies 50: Creating Community

**Upper Division Core**
Ethnic Studies 101: Critical Race Theory
Ethnic Studies 196: Capstone Course
Methods Course (Choose one from the following list. Others courses may be taken with the approval of the ES Director)
ES 105: Modern Approaches to History (Cross listed with History)
ES 111: Qualitative Methods (Cross listed with Communication)
ES 132: Sociological Research Methods (Cross listed with Sociology)

**Six Upper Division Electives**
Students will take two (2) courses from each of the following categories: Ethnic Groups and Identity; Arts and Literature; and Socioeconomics and Inequality

**Ethnic Groups and Identity:** This area includes courses that address the role ethnicity plays in one’s individual, social, and political experiences and identity. The courses listed
below are representative of courses that address some of the above particularities. Other courses accepted with approval by Director.

- ES 110: Youth Cultures, Identities and New Ethnicities
- ES 106: Intercultural Communication [AD, SHCU] (Cross listed with Communication)
- ES 111 Sociology of Families (Cross listed with Sociology)
- ES 116 New Immigrants & Refugees (Cross listed with Sociology)
- ES 123: Ethnic Groups in the United States (Cross listed with Sociology)
- ES 125 Gender & Society (Cross listed with Sociology)
- ES 135 Transnational Social Movements (Cross listed with Sociology)
- ES 135 Ethnic Identity (Cross listed with Sociology)
- ES 133: Special Topics in Hispanic Cultural Studies (Cross listed with Modern Languages)
- ES 017: History of the United States to the Civil War (Cross listed with History)
- ES 018: History of the United States since Reconstruction (Cross listed with History)
- ES 133: Era of the Civil War and Reconstruction (Cross listed with History)
- ES 136: Immigration and Ethnic Relations in American History (Cross listed with History)
- ES 139: History of Women in America [SHCU] (Cross listed with History)
- ES 140: African-American History: 1619-1865 [AD, SHCU] (Cross listed with History)
- ES 141: African-American History: 1865 to the Present [AD, SHCU] (Cross listed with History)
- ES 142: History of California [AD, SHCU] (Cross listed with History)
- ES 154: Latin America, the United States, and the Drug Trade (Cross listed with History)
- ES 131: Colonial History of the United States (Cross listed with History)
- ES 132: The American Revolution and the Early Republic (Cross listed with History)
- ES 134: Recent History of the United States (Cross listed with History)
- ES 170: Topics in African History (Cross listed with History)
- ES 003 American Politics (Cross listed with Politics)
- ES 101 Latino & Asian Politics in CA (Cross listed with Politics)
- ES 109 Topics in American Politics (ES 109) (Cross listed with Politics)
- ES 110: Politics and Race [AD, CE, TCG] (Cross listed with Politics)
- ES 140 Gender Politics (Cross listed with Politics)
- ES 149 Politics of Immigration (Cross listed with Politics)
- Psychology 165: Cross Cultural Psychology [AD, CE] (Cross listed with Psychology)

In addition, new courses are approved on a term-to-term basis.
**Arts and Literature:** Within Ethnic Studies, the role of Arts and Literature is not only to reflect the social reality of ethnic experiences in the United States, but also to shape and transform that reality. Students will examine competing notions of identity and community that emerge in the literary and artistic expressions of U.S. writers and artists of color. The courses listed below are representative of courses that address some of the above particularities. Other courses accepted with approval by Director.

- ES 150: Chicano/Chicana Literature (Cross listed with Modern Languages)
- ES 135: The Sociology of Film (Cross listed with Sociology)
- ES 023: Voices of American Diversity (Cross listed with English)
- ES 150: American Lit. Before 1800 (Cross listed with English)
- ES 151: American Lit. 1800-1900 (Cross listed with English)
- ES 152: 20th Century American Lit. (Cross listed with English)
- ES 153: Ethnic American Literature and Oral Traditions (often taught as Latino Literature) [AA, AD] (Cross listed with English)
- ES 154: African American Literature [AA, AD] (Cross listed with English)
- ES 184: Contemporary Drama (Cross listed with English)
- ES 170: Problems in Literary Theory (Cross listed with English)
- ES 014: World Music and Dance (Cross listed with Performing Arts)
- ES 050: Theatre for Social Justice: Interactive Theatre (Cross listed with Performing Arts)
- ES 061: World Theatre Experience (Cross listed with Performing Arts)
- ES 060/160: Special Topics in Performing Arts (Cross listed with Performing Arts)
- ES 113: Jazz & Blues in America [AA, AD] (Cross listed with Performing Arts)
- ES 161: Theatre and American Cultures (Multicultural Performance) (Cross listed with Performing Arts)
- Seminar 144: Multicultural Thought

*In addition, new courses are approved on a term-to-term basis.*

**Socioeconomics and Inequality:** This area includes courses that address the relationship between race and ethnicity and economic, political, and social inequalities in contemporary society. The courses listed below are representative of courses that address some of the above particularities. Other courses accepted with approval by Director.

- ES 131: Cultural Geography (Cross listed with Anthropology)
- ES 161: Communication and Social Justice [CE, TCG] (Cross listed with Communication)
- ES 004 Social Problems (Cross listed with Sociology)
- ES 112 Race & Ethnicity (Cross listed with Sociology)
- ES 115 Wealth & Poverty (Cross listed with Sociology)
• ES 120: Social Movements and Social Change (Cross listed with Sociology)
• ES 122 Education and Society (Cross listed with Sociology)
• ES 124 Justice & Community (Cross listed with Sociology)
• ES 135: Marginalized Groups (Cross listed with Sociology)
• ES 135 Prison Voices (Cross listed with Sociology)
• ES 106 Politics of Labor (Cross listed with Politics)
• ES 115: Theories of Justice [TCG] (Cross listed with Politics)
• ES 125 Human Rights (Cross listed with Politics)
• ES 126 Food Politics (Cross listed with Politics)
• ES 127 Field Work for Food Politics (Cross listed with Politics)
• ES 190 Social Justice Speakers Series (.25) (Cross listed with Politics)
• ES 166: Spirituality in Practice [AD, TE] (Cross listed with TRS)
• ES 171: Gender and Religions in America [AD, TE] (Cross listed with TRS)
• Psychology 163: Prejudice and Stereotypes [AD]

In addition, new courses are approved on a term-to-term basis.

**Ethnic Studies Minor**

The Ethnic Studies minor comprises 6 courses—2 lower division and 4 upper division:

*Core Curriculum designations noted in [ ].

**Lower Division (2)**
ES 01 Introduction to Ethnic Studies [AD, TCG]
ES 50 Creating Community [AD, TCG]

**Ethnic Studies Theory (1)**

ES 101: Critical Race Theory (Or other Theory course approved by Director)

**Upper Division Electives (3)**
Three (3) upper division electives, with no more than two (2) from a single discipline.
Below is a partial list. Other courses approved by Director.

ES 102: Youth Cultures, Identities and New Ethnicities
ES 196: Senior Capstone Thesis
ES 131: Cultural Geography (Cross listed with Anthropology)
ES 106: Intercultural Communication [AD, SHCU] (Cross listed with COMM)
ES 161: Communication and Social Justice [CE, TCG] (Cross listed with COMM)
ES 163: Seminar in Special Topics: Drag: Everyday Kings & Queens
(Cross listed with COMM)
ES 023: Voices of American Diversity (Cross listed with English)
ES 150: American Lit. Before 1800 (Cross listed with English)
ES 151: American Lit. 1800-1900 (Cross listed with English)
ES 152: 20th Century American Lit. (Cross listed with English)
ES 153: Ethnic American Literature and Oral Traditions (often taught as Latino Literature) [AA, AD] (Cross listed with English)
ES 154: African American Literature [AA, AD] (Cross listed with English)
ES 184: Contemporary Drama (Cross listed with English)
ES 170: Problems in Literary Theory (Cross listed with English)
ES 017: History of the United States to the Civil War (Cross listed with History)
ES 018: History of the United States since Reconstruction (Cross listed with History)
ES 133: Era of the Civil War and Reconstruction (Cross listed with History)
ES 136: Immigration and Ethnic Relations in American History (Cross listed with History)
ES 139: History of Women in America [SHCU] (Cross listed with History)
ES 140: African-American History: 1619-1865 [AD, SHCU] (Cross listed with History)
ES 141: African-American History: 1865 to the Present [AD, SHCU] (Cross listed with History)
ES 142: History of California [AD, SHCU] (Cross listed with History)
ES 154: Latin America, the United States, and the Drug Trade (Cross listed with History)
ES 131: Colonial History of the United States (Cross listed with History)
ES 132: The American Revolution and the Early Republic (Cross listed with History)
ES 134: Recent History of the United States (Cross listed with History)
ES 170: Topics in African History (Cross listed with History)
ES 150: Chicano/Chicana Literature (Cross listed with Modern Languages)
ES 003: American Politics (Cross listed with Politics)
ES 101: Latino & Asian Politics in CA (Cross listed with Politics)
ES 106: Politics of Labor (Cross listed with Politics)
ES 109: Topics in American Politics (ES 109) (Cross listed with Politics)
ES 110: Politics of Race [AD, CE, TCG] (Cross listed with Politics)
ES 115: Theories of Justice [TCG] (Cross listed with Politics)
ES 125: Human Rights (Cross listed with Politics)
ES 126: Food Politics (Cross listed with Politics)
ES 127: Field Work for Food Politics (Cross listed with Politics)
ES 140: Gender Politics (Cross listed with Politics)
ES 149 Politics of Immigration (Cross listed with Politics)
ES 190 Social Justice Speakers Series (.25) (Cross listed with Politics)
ES 004 Social Problems (Cross listed with Sociology)
ES 111: Sociology of Families (Cross listed with Sociology)
ES 112: Race & Ethnicity (Cross listed with Sociology)
ES 115: Wealth & Poverty (Cross listed with Sociology)
ES 116: New Immigrants & Refugees (Cross listed with Sociology)
ES 120: Social Movements (Cross listed with Sociology)
ES 122: Education and Society (Cross listed with Sociology)
ES 123: Ethnic Groups in the US (Cross listed with Sociology)
ES 124: Justice & Community (Cross listed with Sociology)
ES 125: Gender & Society (Cross listed with Sociology)
ES 135: Ethnic Identity (Cross listed with Sociology)
ES 135: The Sociology of Film (Cross listed with Sociology)
ES 135: Prison Voices (Cross listed with Sociology)
ES 135: Transnational Social Movements (Cross listed with Sociology)
ES 135: Marginalized Groups (Cross listed with Sociology)
ES 166: Spirituality in Practice [AD, TE] (Cross listed with TRS)
ES 171: Gender and Religion in America [AD, TE] (Cross listed with TRS)
ES 014: World Music and Dance (Cross listed with Performing Arts)
ES 050: Theatre for Social Justice: Interactive Theatre (Cross listed with Performing Arts)
ES 061: World Theatre Experience (Cross listed with Performing Arts)
ES 060/160: Special Topics in Performing Arts (Cross listed with Performing Arts)
ES 113: Jazz & Blues in America [AA, AD] (Cross listed with Performing Arts)
ES 161: Theatre and American Cultures (Multicultural Performance) (Cross listed with Performing Arts)
ES 184 Dance in Performance (Cross listed with Performing Arts)
PSYCH 163: Prejudice and Stereotypes [AD]
PSYCH 165: Cross Cultural Psychology [AD, CE]
SEM 144: Multicultural Thought

CORE COURSES

1 Introduction to Ethnic Studies

This course provides an introduction to the complex nature of racial and ethnic populations in the United States. It seeks to understand the diverse traditions and cultures of the people of the United States in order to gain an appreciation for American diversity. It offers a critical understanding of the origins and impacts of settler colonialism, conquest, slavery, war and immigration on the development of the U.S. We will examine the ways in which race and ethnicity intersect with gender, class, sexuality, citizenship and nationality in order to better understand how systems of power and inequality are constructed, reinforced and challenged. This course satisfies the American Diversity requirement and the Common Good requirement of the Core Curriculum.

50 Creating Community: Introduction to Skills for Building a Socially Just Society

In a multicultural society, discussion about issues facilitate understanding between social/cultural groups. This course is designed to prepare students to engage in informed and meaningful dialogue in situations where such understanding and listening are needed. The skills learned in this course will also enable us to engage in dialogues about a variety of issues in our families, among our friends, at our workplaces, and in our communities. One goal of this course is to create a setting in which students engage in open and constructive dialogue, learning, and exploration of intergroup relations, conflict and community building. There are no pre-requisites for this course. This course satisfies the American Diversity requirement and the Common Good requirement of the Core Curriculum.

101 Critical Race Theory

This course engages critical race theory as an explanatory critical framework, method and
pedagogy for analyzing race and racism in the U.S. and that works toward identifying and challenging racism within institutional contexts.

110 Youth Cultures, Identities and New Ethnicities

196 Capstone Course

The course entails independent study, research and/or creative work in the area of Ethnic Studies. Students are encouraged to explore a question/issue that will represent the culmination of their undergraduate experience and address the learning outcomes of the major. The parameters for the project will be set by the student and her/his instructor, but should entail regular meetings throughout the semester and a term project.