Collections

Librarians have been working steadily over the years to build collections to support research in ethnic studies. In addition to the efforts of the Ethnic Studies Librarian Subject Selector, librarian subject selectors in other areas continue to add titles relating to ethnic groups within their own subject areas. Overall, the library should be able to support this course. When the major is approved, it would be beneficial for the Ethnic Studies Librarian to work with the department to ensure that the collections reflect the objectives of the curriculum.

Books (including eBooks):

Overall, the book collection is adequate to support the needs of this new course. The library is strong in materials relating to Indigenous Americans, African Americans, Latino Americans, and Asian Americans. Some additional effort should be made to build the collections relating to Pacific Islanders. Additionally, the library collects books on race, ethnicity, and other issues such as white privilege, discrimination, and inequality.

Reference Books:

The library owns a variety of excellent reference sources related to ethnic studies. These sources can help students gain an overview of their topics and determine the nature of the existing literature. Many of these are listed on the library’s Subject Guide for Ethnic Studies (http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/library/subject-guides/ethnic-studies). Some examples are:

Encyclopedia of Race and Racism
SAGE Handbook of Race and Ethnic Studies
Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity and Society
Annual Reviews

Periodicals:

A search of the Periodicals List under the subject category “Ethnic and Race Studies” yielded 451 periodical titles. This may be an imperfect count as it relies on the Periodicals List database’s determination of what belongs in each category. The list contains a mix of academic and ethnic news titles. The faculty should inform the Ethnic Studies Librarian of any important journals in this field.
Databases:

The library subscribes to over 200 electronic databases many of which contain information relevant to ethnic studies. However, the following databases will be most relevant to this course:

*EthnicNewswatch*
*Sociological Abstracts*
*Anthropology Plus*

The library’s *Multisearch* discovery service which searches across databases, and other general databases such as *Academic OneFile, Omnifile, and Academic Search Complete* will also be of use to students in this course.

With the advent of an Ethnic Studies major, the library may want to consider additional specialized databases such as the *Chicano Database* and the *Oxford African American Studies Center* This would require an additional investment of ongoing funds.

Media:

There is no mention of media use in the course proposal. The library purchases many DVD’s and videos for use in courses and also subscribes to several collections of streaming video—Films on Demand, VAST, and Kanopy, all of which contain a wealth of information in video format. If specific videos are needed for this class they can be purchased as long as the budget can support it.

Information Literacy:

The syllabus for this course outlines some excellent objectives relating to information literacy, including “identifying and articulating a research problem; reviewing relevant literature; understanding researcher positionality; developing methodological design.” Given these objectives, the faculty member is encouraged to contact the Ethnic Studies Librarian for assistance in providing information literacy instruction for the students in the course.

It is hoped that the department will develop a learning goal that articulates the Information Evaluation Research Practices (IERP) goal of the Core Curriculum as it relates to Ethnic Studies, and incorporate it’s objectives into an intermediate course that would be taken prior to the senior year. This would prepare the students for the level of research in ES 196. I will be happy to work with the department on this.