Ethnic Studies is a one-semester history and sociology course that examines the multicultural fabric of the United States. The course emphasizes the perspectives of minority groups while allowing students from all backgrounds to better understand and appreciate how race, culture and ethnicity, and identity contribute to their experiences.

Major topics in the course include identity, immigration, assimilation and distinctiveness, power and oppression, struggles for rights, regionalism, culture and the media, and the formation of new cultures.

In online Discussions and Polls, students reflect critically on their own experiences as well as those of others. Interactive multimedia activities include personal and historical accounts to which students can respond using methods of inquiry from history, sociology, and psychology. Written assignments and Journals provide opportunities for students to practice and develop skills for thinking and communicating about race, culture, ethnicity, and identity.

This course is built to state standards and informed by the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Expectations of Excellence: Curriculum Standards for Social Studies as well as the National Standards for History published by the National Center for History in Schools (NCHS).

Length: One Semester

Unit 1: Identity

- What Is My Identity?
- Family and Identity
- Social Identity
- Group Conflict and Interaction
- Identity Wrap-Up
- Diagnostic

Unit 2: Culture in a Multicultural Society

- What Is Culture?
- Cultural Perspectives
- A Multicultural Point of View
- Cross-Cultural Communication
- Culture in a Multicultural Society Wrap-Up
- Diagnostic

Unit 3: Race and Identity

- The Origins of Race and Racism in the United States
- American Indian Identity
- Immigration and Identity

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- Contested Rights
- Race and Identity Wrap-Up
- Diagnostic

Unit 4: The Media, Race, and Identity

- Deconstructing the Media
- Stereotypes in Early Media
- The Struggle for Self-Representation in the Media
- Race in Today's Media: What's the Message?
- The Media, Race, and Identity Wrap-Up
- The Media, Race, and Identity

Unit 5: Understanding and Addressing Racism in the United States

- Racism in the United States Today
- The Struggle for Civil Rights
- Talking about Race in America
- Ending Racism in Our Personal Lives
- Understanding and Addressing Racism in the United States Wrap-Up
- Diagnostic

Unit 6: Multicultural Studies Review and Exam

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