



# Course Syllabus

**Course Title:** Ethnic Studies

**School Year:** 2024-2025

**Semester(s):** Fall Semester

**Grade Level(s):** Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

**Course Days and Times:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm PST

## Teacher Information

- **Name:** Megan Monroe
- **Email:** [megan.monroe@brancheslearning.org](mailto:megan.monroe@brancheslearning.org)
- **Office Hours:** By appointment only
- **Branches Learning Main Office Number:** (323) 955-0114

**Class Materials** - <https://brancheslearning.org/product/ethnic-studies/#Materials>

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**Course Description:** This one-semester elective course introduces students to African American, Chicana/o/x, Latina/o/x, Native American, Asian American, and Pacific Islander studies, examining their historical experiences, cultures, struggles, and contributions to American society. Through critical analysis, students gain awareness of how identity and bias influence perspectives and actions. Emphasis is placed on understanding historical parallels, fostering inclusivity, and advocating for tolerance in contemporary society.

## Course Units

### Unit 1: Identity and Ethnic Studies

Students will deepen their self-understanding, develop a better understanding of others, and recognize the importance of intersectionality in creating inclusive and equitable communities.

### Unit 2: American Civil Rights Movement

Students will critically examine the historical phenomenon of empire building and its intricate ties to white supremacy, racism, and various forms of power and oppression.



### **Unit 3: African American, Chicana/o/x and Latina/o/x, Native American, and Asian American and Pacific Islander Texts**

Students will celebrate and honor these communities by providing a space to share their stories of success, community collaboration, and solidarity, along with their intellectual and cultural wealth.

### **Unit 4: What's Next?**

Students will foster collective narratives of transformative resistance, critical hope, and radical healing, envisioning a future grounded in justice and equality for all. Together, they will explore new possibilities for a post-racist and post-systemic-racism society.

### **Course Expectations**

Students are expected to have their materials ready prior to the start of class, arrive on time, and be prepared to participate during each meeting. Students are expected to attend from a quiet place with their cameras on. Students are expected to ask for help when needed, and submit their work in a timely manner. Students are expected to act respectfully toward their peers and educators.

### **Grading Scale**

#### **High School, Grades 9-12**

- A = 90% -100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 0%-59%

Final grades are determined by the quality and completion of assignments, attendance, and participation.

### **Important Branches Learning Policy Information**

#### **Camera Policy**

Branches Learning requires students to keep their cameras on during live classes unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. Exceptions can be made in rare circumstances if the course teacher, supervising teacher (HST), and the parent all approve a camera waiver.



### **Headset Policy**

Students attending live classes from a shared space must have a headset with a microphone to ensure the class is not disrupted by background noise.

### **Attendance Policy**

Absences must be reported to the course instructor via email or sent to [info@brancheslearning.org](mailto:info@brancheslearning.org). Class recordings are available upon requests.

Attendance and participation are part of the final grade. Students who miss more than 40% of live classes may fail the course. Exceptions may be made if a pre-approved plan is in place.

### **Late Work**

Assignments turned in after the due date will result in a lower grade unless pre-approved by the instructor.