

Adopted: March 2, 2021

**ACADEMIC SENATE  
of  
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY  
San Luis Obispo, CA**

**AS-914-21**

**RESOLUTION ON SUBJECT AREA GUIDELINES FOR GENERAL EDUCATION AREA F: ETHNIC STUDIES**

Impact on Existing Policy: **Establishes General Education Area F: Ethnic Studies Criteria and Educational Objectives.**

1 WHEREAS, Education Code 89032 SECTION 2 SUBSECTION (b) requires that: "Commencing with  
2 the 2021-2022 academic year, the California State University shall provide for courses in ethnic  
3 studies at each of its campuses" and  
4

5 WHEREAS, AB1460/ California Education Code 89032 SECTION 2 SUBSECTION (d) states:  
6 "Commencing with students graduating in the 2024–25 academic year, the California State  
7 University shall require, as an undergraduate graduation requirement, the completion of, at  
8 minimum, one three-unit course in ethnic studies...." and  
9

10 WHEREAS, The Cal Poly Ethnic Studies Requirement Working Group and the Ethnic Studies Area  
11 F Curriculum Sub-Group, and the General Education Governance Board have reviewed the Area  
12 F criteria and educational objectives, be it  
13

14 RESOLVED: That the Cal Poly Academic Senate approve the attached *Subject Area Guidelines for*  
15 *General Education Area F: Ethnic Studies* and be it further  
16

17 RESOLVED: That these guidelines be used for the review of proposed General Education courses  
18 in Area F: Ethnic Studies.

Proposed by: Cal Poly Ethnic Studies Requirement  
Curriculum Sub Committee & the General Education  
Governance Board (GEGB)

Date: January 26, 2021

## **Subject Area Guidelines for General Education Area F: Ethnic Studies**

The General Education (GE) program is compliant with CSU requirements and is uniquely tailored to our comprehensive polytechnic education. At Cal Poly all curriculum, including General Education curriculum, is designed and taught by faculty with appropriate training and disciplinary expertise. Educational objectives are expectations for student learning, the achievement of which can be periodically assessed. Course criteria are expectations for course design that will be used in the consideration of the course proposal, course modifications, and course renewal. Course criteria and educational objectives for General Education subject area F: Ethnic Studies are included below.

### **Ethnic Studies Area F**

Ethnic Studies in the United States is defined as an interdisciplinary and comparative study of race and ethnicity with a focus on four racial/ethnic groups of people: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latina and Latino Americans. Thus, students acquire the knowledge that helps them comprehend the histories of settler colonialism, racism, white supremacy, and ethnocentrism in the United States and its development. They will learn to distinguish between structural and individual forms of racism. They will analyze the ways in which settler colonialism and racism intersect and interlock with other forms of oppression with regard to Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latina and Latino Americans. Students will learn about the intellectual and cultural contributions made by Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latina and Latino Americans. This knowledge will prepare and enable students to contribute to society as responsible and constructive community members who work to make the promise of equality in America a reality.

Area F courses shall not be waived or substituted. Area F courses shall have an Ethnic Studies prefix. Courses without an Ethnic Studies prefix may meet this requirement if cross-listed with a course with an Ethnic Studies prefix. Courses that are approved to meet this requirement shall meet at least three of the five Council on Ethnic Studies (CES) and California State University Academic Senate (ASCSU) approved core competencies. Campuses may add additional competencies to these core competencies but must meet the minimum standard of 3 of 5 core competencies for approval. Finally, Ethnic Studies courses required in majors, minors, or that satisfy campus-wide requirements and are approved for Area F shall “double count.”

### **CRITERIA**

GE Area F courses must fulfill all of the following criteria. The course must:

CR 1: Have an Ethnic Studies prefix.

CR 2: Meet three out of five Council on Ethnic Studies approved core competencies (educational objectives).

CR 3: Focus on one or more of the following racial/ethnic groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latina and Latino Americans in the United States.

CR 4: Emphasize the voices and contributions of Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latina and Latino Americans such that the course must prominently include sources written and/or produced by them.

### **Lower Division Educational Objectives**

EO 1: Distinguish between individual and structural forms of racism, exclusion, and other forms of inequality as they have been historically applied to Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans and/or Latina and Latino Americans.

EO 2: Describe the most significant artistic, intellectual, cultural, and/or linguistic contributions made by Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans and/or Latina and Latino Americans in the United States.

EO 3: Explain and critically review how struggle, resistance, racial and social justice, solidarity, and liberation, as experienced, enacted, and studied by Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans and/or Latina and Latino Americans are relevant to current and structural issues such as communal, national, international, and transnational politics as, for example, in immigration, reparations, settler-colonialism, multiculturalism, and language policies (**CSU Council on Ethnic Studies Core Competency**).

EO 4: Describe and actively engage with anti-racist and anti-colonial issues and the practices and movements in Native American, African American, Asian American and/or Latina and Latino communities to build a just and equitable society (**CSU Council on Ethnic Studies Core Competency**).

EO 5: Critically analyze the intersection of race and racism as they relate to class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, national origin, immigration status, ability, tribal citizenship, sovereignty, language, and/or age in Native American, African American, Asian American, and/or Latina and Latino American communities (**CSU Council on Ethnic Studies Core Competency**).

### **Upper Division Educational Objectives**

EO 1: Articulate and explain the most significant artistic, intellectual, cultural, and/or linguistic contributions made by Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans and/or Latina and Latino Americans in the United States.

EO 2: Synthesize the historical narratives and/or intellectual traditions of Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans and/or Latina and Latino Americans in the United States.

EO 3: Apply theory and knowledge produced by Native American, African American, Asian American, and/or Latina and Latino American communities to describe the critical events, histories, cultures, intellectual traditions, contributions, lived-experiences, and social struggles of those groups with a particular emphasis on agency and group-affirmation **(CSU CES Core Competency)**.

EO 4: Analyze and articulate concepts such as race and racism, racialization, ethnicity, equity, ethno-centrism, eurocentrism, white supremacy, self-determination, liberation, decolonization, sovereignty, imperialism, settler colonialism, and anti-racism as analyzed in any one or more of the following: Native American Studies, African American Studies, Asian American Studies, and Latina and Latino American Studies **(CSU CES Core Competency)**.

EO 5: Critically analyze the intersection of race and racism as they relate to class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, national origin, immigration status, ability, tribal citizenship, sovereignty, language, and/or age in Native American, African American, Asian American, and/or Latina and Latino American communities **(CSU CES Core Competency)**.



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Thomas Gutierrez

**Date:** March 12, 2021

**From:** Jeffery D. Armstrong

*Jeffery D. Armstrong*

**Copies:** Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore  
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**Subject:** Response to AS-914-21 Resolution on Subject Area Guidelines for  
General Education Area F: Ethnic Studies

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By way of this memo, I approve the above-entitled Academic Senate resolution.

I appreciate the speed and flexibility with which the Academic Senate, the Cal Poly Ethnic Studies Requirement Working Group, and the General Education Governance Board have implemented the new CSU General Education breadth requirements.

In particular, the creation of Area F criteria and educational objectives will help the university to achieve its Strategic Priority 3, which is to “Enrich the Campus Culture of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion,” and its goal to “prepare all students for their future through an education that includes diversity learning and reflects the principles of Inclusive Excellence.”

Please extend my thanks to the members of the Academic Senate, the Ethnic Studies Requirement Working Group, and the General Education Governance Board for their attention to this important curricular matter.