El Rancho Unified School District

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Watch the Amazing Program in Action!
Need to Know...

What inspired you to attend our session?

What do you hope to learn?
ERUSD has 8 elementary, 3 middle, 2 high schools, and 1 alternative high school. The district is located in Pico Rivera, CA, 11 miles east of downtown Los Angeles. The district serves approximately 8,423 K-12 students, and an additional 600 students in state preschool through adult school. Our demographics can be described as:

- **98%** Hispanic/Latino
- **22.6%** English Learners
- **78%** Low Income

High School Enrollment is as follows:

ERHS: **2,384**  
EOPA: **155**  
RSHS: **176**
A Collaborative Model for Creativity & Innovation

District Mission

Teachers & Students

School Board & Community

School Site Leadership

District Admin.
School Board Members Are Agents of Change
Ethnic Studies Resolution

Adopted June 17, 2014

EL RANCHO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 37-2013/2014

CULTURAL AWARENESS AND ETHNIC STUDIES GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

Whereas, the El Rancho Unified School District seeks to provide a well-rounded and quality education that exposes students to cultures that are crucial to understanding our nation, past and present, and that helps our students to appreciate the rich histories and cultural contributions of their own communities; and

Whereas, there is a substantial research evidence that well designed and well taught ethnic studies curricula have positive academic and social outcomes for students; and

Whereas, the former Mexican American Studies program in Tucson, Arizona demonstrated significant strides in closing the achievement gap and increased academic achievement for all students; and

Whereas, the El Rancho Unified School District offers a Mexican American Heritage course within our curriculum to teach about the important contributions of Mexican Americans to our communities; and

Whereas, the current Mission of the El Rancho Unified School District is to prepare students as lifelong learners to succeed academically, intellectually, socially, emotionally and culturally;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the El Rancho Unified School District shall modify its existing graduation requirement to include a course in Cultural Awareness.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Cultural Awareness requirement may be minimally fulfilled be a five credit, semester length A-G College approved Ethnic Studies course including the Mexican American Heritage class, which is already offered at El Rancho High School.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Cultural Awareness requirement and Ethnic Studies class will take the place of the current Geography course requirement.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Governing Board of Education directs the Superintendent to develop curriculum and provide professional development to ensure quality courses in Ethnic Studies that fulfill the cultural diversity requirement.

Ethnic Studies curriculum supports the Common Core framework by:

- Engaging students through exposure to multiple perspectives and diversity
- Developing cultural awareness, sensitivity, and responsibility
- Connecting students to their community and global society
- Increasing self-awareness, confidence, and overall student resiliency
ERUSD Making History

First School District in California to Adopt Ethnic Studies as a High School Graduation Requirement
Our Path...

- Teacher Committee Formed
- Vision & Course Options Established
- Call for Proposals
- A-G Course Development
- Curriculum Planning
- Ongoing Support & Open Dialogue
Ethnic Studies Timeline

- **June 2014** – Adoption of Resolution
- **August 2014** – Meet with Stakeholder Groups
- **September 2014** – Form Teacher Committee
- **Oct. – Nov. 2014** – Establish vision and course guidelines
- **Dec. 2014** – Call for Proposals
- **Jan. 2015** – Committee reviews proposals & provides feedback
- **Feb. – May 2015** – A-G Course Submission Preparation
- **May – June 2015** – Course Offerings
- **Summer 2015** – Curriculum Writing
- **Fall 2015** – Course Implementation
- **Spring 2018** – New Course Proposals & Curriculum Writing for 2019
If you could teach any class, what would it be?

In groups of 2 or 3...

1) Think about that one class you had in college that you never forgot. Discuss why that class was so impactful.

2) If you could inspire students as you were inspired, what class would you teach? Why?
Ethnic Studies Courses

- Multicultural Literature
- Examining Cultural Diversity and Gender through Literature & Film
- Chicano Mural Art
- Mexican American Heritage
- CSULB – US Diversity and the Ethnic Experience
- ASAM – Contemporary Issues in Asian America
- Foundations of Ethnic Studies

More to Come!

- From Hooverville to Ferguson: A History of Social Movements in the United States
- ROP International Foods
- Ethnomathematics: A survey of the mathematical contributions of non-western cultures
- Am I an Ethnic Statistic?
Multicultural Literature

MELINDA AGUILAR

Exploring African American, Asian American, Native American, and Hispanic American cultures, and how these cultures assimilate to the American culture.
This course is designed to examine how literature and film shape beliefs around race, class, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation.

Texts & Films Include:
- The Color Purple
- The Joy Luck Club
- Boyz n’ the Hood
- Angels in America
- Gran Torino
- In the Time of Butterflies
- Crash
- Smoke Signals
- One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest...
Chicano Mural Art
Jesus Magdaleno

Learning about the social-political, cultural and historical factors which shaped the Chicano Art Movement. Highlighting the continual relevance of past and current Chicano Artists as an Art Movement.
Foundations of Ethnic Studies

Emphasizes essential ethnic studies concepts, such as race, class, identity, gender, and sexuality.

Analyzes the history of ethnic studies as well as a brief history of historically marginalized groups in the United States.
El Rancho Ethnic Studies Curriculum Alignment

Vision

The vision for Ethnic Studies at El Rancho is to engage and empower students by providing opportunities to critically examine and understand the experiences of historically marginalized communities to create positive change within local and global contexts.

Ethnic Studies “Standards”

In El Rancho, Ethnic Studies courses that fulfill the graduation requirement:

1. Center the EXPERIENCES of historically marginalized communities.

2. Critically EXAMINE concepts such as race, class, gender, and sexuality in relation to power, political systems, social structures, and social justice movements.

3. ENGAGE students through critical and meaningful dialogue that leads to an understanding of self, society, and the connection between the two.

4. EMPOWER students to advocate and become agents of social transformation by developing community responsive efforts that address the needs of the community and the world.
ERUSD Partnerships

• Catalyst and collaborative partner in organizing the inaugural *Ethnic Studies Summit* hosted by CSULB

• **New Course Offering – Spring 2018**
  • CHLS 215: Introduction to Ethnic Studies
  • AFRS 121: Africana Studies
  • Students receive 3 units of college credit
The Ethnic Studies Effect
Future Leaders & Global Thinkers

- Latino Club
- Cultural Awareness Club
- Gay-Straight Alliance
- Social Justice Club
- MECHA
- March for Our Lives rally, walkout, and march
Next Steps for ERUSD...

- Curriculum development continues
- Ethnic Studies Expansion Pre-K–8
- Graduation Pathway
- Ethnic Studies Department
- University Partnerships
- Speaker Series
- Youth Action Research
- Service Learning
- Sharing Our Work
Thank You!
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