

# AB 101 (Medina)

## Ethnic Studies

### **Background**

Ethnic Studies is an interdisciplinary field of study that encompasses many subject areas, including: history, literature, economics, sociology, and political science, among others. It offers an in-depth comparative study of the history, politics, culture, contributions, challenges, and current status of ethnic groups in the United States.

It is important for students to learn the national origins of ethnic groups and their transnational linkages. In Ethnic Studies, students examine the formation process of ethnic minorities in a variety of contexts: political, legal, social, historical, economic, and cultural. Ethnic Studies concentrates on the experiences of various ethnic minorities and the ways in which their experiences were impacted by the issues of race, ethnicity, class, gender, and the interaction among different ethnic groups.

Currently the California Department of Education (CDE) is conducting webinars to gather public input on the 2020 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum project. The project asks for input on what kinds of course outlines should be included in the model curriculum, as well as what are the essential components of effective ethnic studies pedagogy, while also addressing current challenges educators are facing while teaching ethnic studies and figuring out ways to better support districts, administrators and teachers.

### **Problem**

Currently, school districts are encouraged to offer ethnic studies, but it is not required.

### **Solution**

AB 101 would add the completion of a course in ethnic studies based on model curriculum or existing ethnic studies course that meets the A-G requirement, starting in the 2025-26 school year.

AB 101 would require all students to have taken a one semester course in ethnic studies for students graduating in 2029-30.

AB 101 would allow students to complete a one semester course in ethnic studies based on the model curriculum. Requirement through completion of either of the following types of courses, subject to the course offerings of the local educational agency or charter school:

- a) an ethnic studies course
- b) an existing ethnic studies course that has been approved as meeting the A-G requirements of the University of California and the California State University, except as specified, or in another subject, including but not limited to subjects in which courses are required for graduation from high school by the state or, if applicable, by the local educational agency or charter school.

A course which does not use ethnic studies content as the primary content through which the subject is taught does not satisfy this requirement.

For courses taught through another subject, students completing the course shall also accrue credit for coursework in the subject in which the course is offered, including, if applicable, credit toward state and any local requirements for graduation from high school.

### **Staff Contact**

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