

MEMORANDUM

TO: Curriculum Committee

FROM: Lezlee Ware and David Eck (in consultation with Dr. Frederick Gaines, Professor of Ethnic Studies, CSM)

DATE: November 13, 2020

SUBJECT: Request to add Ethnic Studies (ETHN), TOP CODE 2203.00

In order to address the [California Assembly Bill 1460 \(AB-1460\)](#), the District Academic Senate (DAS) created a task force composed of the Ethnic Studies faculty from each of our 3 campuses. The Assembly Bill acknowledges the following:

- a) Ethnic studies programs have come about from students of color demanding them. On November 6, 1968, a coalition of student groups at San Francisco State University demanded that the university institute an ethnic studies program.
- b) Ethnic studies are an interdisciplinary and comparative study of race and ethnicity with special focus on four historically defined racialized core groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latina and Latino Americans.
- c) Studies have found that both students of color and white students benefit academically as well as socially from taking ethnic studies courses. Ethnic studies courses play an important role in building an inclusive multicultural democracy;

Thus, the California State University (CSU) has established new transfer requirements that reflect the importance of a robust anti-racist education. The CSU lists five core competencies for courses that meet the new Area F on CSU GE Breadth Requirements:

1. Analyze and articulate concepts of ethnic studies, including but not limited to race and ethnicity, racialization, equity, ethno-centrism, eurocentrism, white supremacy, self-determination, liberation, decolonization and anti-racism.
2. Apply theory to describe critical events in the histories, cultures and intellectual traditions, with special focus on the lived-experiences and social struggles of one or more of the following four historically defined racialized core groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Latina/o Americans and/or Asian Americans, and emphasizing agency and group-affirmation.
3. Critically discuss the intersection of race and ethnicity with other forms of difference affected by hierarchy and oppression, such as class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, national origin, immigration status, ability and/or age.
4. Describe how struggle, resistance, social justice, solidarity and liberation as experienced by communities of color are relevant to current issues.
5. Demonstrate active engagement with anti-racist issues, practices and movements to build a diverse, just and equitable society beyond the classroom.

The District Academic Senate Ethnic Studies Requirement Task Force has recommended the prioritization of the following:

- I. Prioritize an Ethnic Studies Faculty hire
 - a. Cañada's Academic Senate committed to the hiring of this new faculty member for Fall 2021 with a ranking of #1 (see October 22, 2020 meeting minutes).
- II. In preparation of this new faculty hire, we have agreed to clone the CSM ETHN courses in order to meet the extended, although short, curriculum timeline and update them as needed.

In acknowledgement of the District Academic Senate Ethnic Studies Resolution that recognizes the intent of the State Ethnic Studies legislation and with the support of Academic Senate, Academic Committee for Equity and Success (ACES), Curriculum Technical Review Committee, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Office of the President concur that an Ethnic Studies program is necessary to the educational experience of Cañada College students.

Given the four primary areas study within the Ethnic Studies discipline, local experts will create Cañada College Ethnic Studies courses modeled on the range of CSM Ethnic Studies courses (we plan on cloning all of the CSM ETHN courses in order to provide our students options beyond Area F). Establishing a range of courses allows for flexibility in accommodating the expertise of a new hire and sets the curricular foundation for a program. The request to secure an Ethnic Studies position meets the SMCCCD Board prerogative (September 2020) that Cañada College add three full-time faculty positions.

The program prefix, ETHN, will be used in creating courses to satisfy the new CSU GE breadth requirement, Area F – Ethnic Studies. Per AB 1460, commencing 2020-2021, CSU is mandated to provide for courses in ethnic studies. Commencing 2024-2025, CSU will require, at minimum, one three-unit ethnic studies course as an undergraduate graduation requirement.