

ETHNIC STUDIES IN APS

Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) will be joining a nationwide movement after the landmark decision to offer ethnic studies in all APS high schools.

“Native American Studies broadened my horizons on cultural and political issues.” - Native American man
“Africana Studies taught me how to think critically and develop my own ideas and thoughts. It was the most the most eye-opening experience I have ever had.” – Black woman
*“I took Chicana and Chicano Studies courses and I learned so much. I felt like such a different person.”
- Latina womanⁱ*

Ethnic Studies Is..

- Representative of people’s different worldviews and ethnic perspectives
- Interdisciplinary – includes various disciplines like history, sociology, politics, LGBT, etc.
- Community rooted & centered, addresses “conquer and divide” tactics in society
- About self-determination – people can research, learn and teach about their own heritage
- Non-Eurocentric, also historical and contemporary
- Intertwined with themes of resistance, struggle, and solidarity – social justice movement history
- Represents methodologies (ways of teaching and learning) that implement popular education and other non-traditional methods, no “I am teaching you” attitude

After taking an ethnic studies course you will be able to:

- Explore major historical events, social movements and cultural productions of Native American, Chicana/o/x, Mexican American, Latina/o/x, African American communities and other marginalized racial and ethnic communities
- Learn from a curriculum that is culturally and historically relevant and focuses on social justice
- Develop critical thinking and critical consciousness about racism, privilege and social justice
- Read books written by and for your own community
- Learn about “identity” and how it’s formed
- Discuss themes and ideas that define your own experiences and community engagement for social justice
- Illustrate and interpret the historical, political, social, psychological, cultural, and/or economic dimensions of the experiences of Native American, Chicana/o/x, Mexican American and African American communities
- Read and write about, discuss, and engage in critical scholarly inquiry, problem-solving and public presentations related to ethnic studies, race, power, privilege, oppression, resistance and social justice
- Acquire a basic level of knowledge about U.S. and/or local, global social justice movements that are anchored in social justice for communities that have experienced historic and contemporary inequalities by race, gender, class, ethnicity, income and wealth, LGBTQ status, nativity, etc.
- Identify opportunities to go from theory to practice by exposure to community-engaged research and teaching opportunities as well as career and post-high school and college opportunities their certificate makes possible.

*“What ethnic studies is really about is creating opportunity for young people to learn about themselves and the world around them and make the world a better place.”
- Allyson Tintiangco-Cubales, ethnic studies professor at SF State*

If you are an interested student, please talk to your advisor to learn more about the ethnic studies elective. Some ethnic studies courses are also part of the dual credit program and they may meet the “U.S. & Global Diversity & Inclusion Requirement” as well as other core curriculum and diversity requirements at UNM and potentially other universities. Talk to your high school guidance counselor for more information.

For more information on the Institute for the Study of “Race” & Social Justice visit: race.unm.edu

For more information on Albuquerque Public Schools visit: | www.aps.edu

ⁱ All of these come from video on the University of New Mexico (UNM) College for Social Transformation Consortium: Daniel Solis (www.danielsolis.com), last accessed 7/27/16 at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84cC5WJ88Jk>.