



WCC ETHNIC STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Message from the Ethnic Studies Department Faculty Chair

It is a true honor to serve in the role of Chair of the WCC Ethnic Studies Department and the Co-Chair of the California Community College Ethnic Studies Faculty Council (CCCESFC) at this time in history. Today Ethnic Studies is being considered as a central form of anti-racist education and equity. After 13 years I still have a sense of urgency to educate our future generations of educators, leaders, and activists in Ethnic Studies.

In 1968 Ethnic Studies was formed to create an educational opportunity especially for students of the four-core racial ethnic groups who had been traditionally excluded from higher education. They demanded inclusion and equity. This meant access to culturally relevant curriculum through project-based learning to address the problems in their communities. The courses were designed to address their self-identities, stories (i.e., history), struggles with racism and colonization, social movements responding to the conditions of power, and solidarity across groups for a more just society. Since then, Ethnic Studies has been against racism, colonialism, racial violence, hetero-patriarchy, homophobia and all forms of oppression, discrimination, displacement, and exploitation.

Now more than ever, our program is committed to teaching the present and future generations of students and leaders to serve and make an impact on diverse communities. The knowledge and skills of students who complete courses include familiarity with theories of democratic principles and social justice, research writing, and practices of community engagement and public service. Critical thinking and effective oral and written communication skills are integrated across the curriculum, which incorporates the arts and English, history, the social sciences, and active participation for social justice. Our Ethnic Studies Department supportive faculty include: **Dr. Cirenio Rodriguez, Todd Shima, Charlene Jacinto, Ernesto Garay, and Raul Arambula.** The Department also has the support of the Chicana/o Studies Advisory Committee: **Co-Chair Ramon Urbano, Co-Chair Olga Nevarez, Griselda Castro, Francisco Hernandez, Sarah Martinez, Irma Rodriguez, and Ricardo Ramirez.**

On a personal note, after 8 years I have retired from directing the campus' Si Se Puede Graduation Recognition and from volunteering to coordinate the Multicultural Center. Ethnic Studies anticipates a revitalized Multicultural Center for students and community, soon. I will be serving the California Community College Ethnic Studies Faculty Council to implement Ethnic Studies course requirement, serving as College Division Senator, and continue to mentor current and former students.

I look forward to teaching and working with past, current, and future cohorts of Ethnic Studies students. Below are updates and accounts of students who have been impacted by our Ethnic Studies Department and have further studied in the social sciences or humanities leading to a BA, MA, Ph.D. and/or D.J. degree, and their desire for career pathways in education, social work, law, public administration, community development, the arts, ecology, or health.

In solidarity, Professor Melissa Moreno



Voices of WCC Ethnic Studies Students & Alumni

Veronica Chavez, Academic Counselor



Proud to say that I was among Professor Moreno's first **Ethnic Studies dual enrollment** high school students at Pierce High School in the early mid 2000s. Now, I hold a Bachelor of Arts in Latin American and Latino Studies, combined with Sociology from the **University of California, Santa Cruz**. I also earned a master's in science in Counseling with a specialization in Career Counseling from CSU Sacramento. Currently, I work as a **counselor at American River College and Sacramento City College** where I provide academic, personal, and career counseling to students. My goal is to one day obtain a full-time counseling position at Woodland Community College. On my spare time I like to try new types of food dishes. I love dancing and going for bike rides and walks in our Valley.

Johnella LaRose, Non-Profit Founder & Director

Greetings. As an indigenous person from the Shoshone Bannock, Ute and Carizzo tribes, I began my academic journey at WCC in fall of 2009. I started college after a nineteen-year career as a union cabinetmaker and labor organizer. I completed my general education requirements in Spring of 2012. Then, I **transferred to Mills College** in Oakland where I graduated in the Spring of 2015 with a bachelor's in Cultural Anthropology and a minor in Sociology.



By far, my favorite classes at WCC were in the Ethnic Studies Department. They included Mexican American History (ETHN-15) and Introduction to Chicano Studies (ETHN-1).. Even though I have been a lifelong activist, the Ethnic Studies classes were so valuable because they centered me in my own activism, and most importantly in my personal history. Studying in Professor Moreno's Ethnic Studies classes helped me to erase lines and borders that had been imposed on me during my lifetime. These classes were not only academically important, but they were also a "personal gift" filled with meaning.

Today, along with Corrina Gould, I am **Co-founder and Co-director of the Sogorea Te Land Trust (a non-profit)** in Oakland. We are an indigenous women's led land trust here in East Bay Ohlone tribal territory. We rematriate, return land into the hands of women of the Ohlone tribe to care for the land in respectful ways. We maintain several large gardens where we grow food and medicinal herbs for our surrounding community. Our story, struggle, social movement, and contributions can be seen in the documentary *Beyond Recognition*, which has won several awards. In the future, I plan to continue the work of returning land to its original caretakers, where we will create housing, provide open spaces for healing and grow food for our community.

Andres Tello, Law Student



Hello! I graduated from WCC in 2016. There, I had the pleasure of taking three courses from the Ethnic Studies Department. Each course expanded my knowledge of the rich histories, experiences, and cultures of different ethnic groups. These courses not only provided invaluable information on topics that are often ignored in academia, but they served as a foundation for my future academic career.

After obtaining my Associate Degree at WCC, I spent the next two years at the **University of California, Santa Barbara** and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Sociology in 2018. It was at UC Santa Barbara where I began to focus my attention on courses regarding race, class, gender, and sexuality. I was even assigned one of Professor Moreno's publications in one of courses there. Using the knowledge and analytical skills I gained from the Ethnic Studies department at WCC, I was able to set myself up for success and effectively approach class material.

In the Fall of 2019, I began the next phase of my academic career at **Loyola Law School in Los Angeles**. In hopes to become an immigration and civil rights attorney, I enrolled at Loyola because of their commitment to social justice, pro-bono legal services, and their immigrant justice clinic. Going into my third year of law school, I have been able to intern with the **Victim Services Program at the Yolo County District Attorney's Office**, serve as a research assistant for Associate Dean of Equity and Inclusion Kathleen Kim, and intern at the **American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)** of Southern California under their Jails Project team. In addition to the job opportunities, I have had the privilege of obtaining, I have taken courses focusing on wrongful convictions to LGBTQ+ advocacy and inclusive lawyering. Currently, I am dedicating my summer to my constitutional law course and working as a full-time intern with the ACLU SoCal.

Although it typically takes three years to obtain a JD, I am part of a four-year evening program that allows my schedule to be more flexible for job opportunities. With that said, I hope to graduate by 2023 and take the Bar Exam later that year. After passing the Bar exam, I would love to continue my work at the ACLU SoCal and provide legal services and representation to undocumented folks throughout the United States. Although I have two years of law school ahead of me, I am eternally grateful to the Ethnic Studies Department, but more specifically to Professor Moreno, for providing me the tools necessary to be successful, as well as for guiding me through higher education beyond WCC. Navigating through institutions that were built to exclude marginalized communities can be an extremely daunting experience. However, there are departments like Ethnic Studies that remind you that there is power in resilience, as well as a network of individuals who want to see you succeed.

Jose Gerardo Diaz Heredia, Teacher in Training

I am a former student of Dr. Moreno who is in process of entering the **Teaching Credential Master's Program at CSU Sacramento**. At WCC I received an associate degree to transfer to CSU Sacramento to study History. Recently, I earned my bachelor's in history (pre-credential).

I took one WCC Ethnic Studies class, and that one changed my life. Once I took **Mexican American History (ETHN-15)**, I knew I wanted to study and pursue a career that would require truth telling. For example, I was struck when I



learned how historically the Virgen de Guadalupe was in some ways a Catholic version of Coatlicue. That piece of knowledge had the most impact on me. I was unaware of how Spanish power had colonized and forever impacted the history of indigenous folks of Mexico. This piece of information made me want to study our past and learn to reveal truths. I came to love learning about historical figures we don't hear about in our K-12 education. Ethnic Studies made me realize that our stories need to be taught, especially by people like us who are indigenous to their hemisphere.

I am excited that I was accepted into the Credential/Master's Program at CSU Sacramento. If it was not for that one Ethnic Studies class in Mexican American History, I may not have never found my calling to teach history, and to teach our history to youth. In the future, I plan to serve as a vice principle or administrative leader to advocate for Ethnic Studies in k-12. Also, I would like to support efforts to diversify classroom teachers. I want our youth to know the truth about our past in a manner that empowers them and help them find motivation to succeed in life, and to not just become another statistic--like I almost did. I AM NOW IN SERVICE TO COMMUNITY.

Ngoc Pham, Pharmacist in Training



I just earned a **Bachelor's of Science in Evolution, Ecology and Biodiversity from the University of California, Davis**. Recently I was accepted to **Marshall University School of Pharmacy** (class of 2025), in West Virginia. My goal is to obtain a doctorate degree in pharmacy and serve as a hospital pharmacist.

I took an WCC Ethnic Studies course because I loved studying history and learning about different cultures. I happened to fall in love with the **Introduction to Chicano Studies (ETHN-1)** course right after my first day of class! I was amazed at how welcoming and heart-warming Professor Moreno was in class and how supportive and friendly my classmates

acted. Being the only Asian person in her class I did not feel left out because our class was more like a small family of learners, than a typical classroom. Ethnic Studies taught me so much about Chicana/o Latina/o culture. Before taking the course, only knew that they were hard-working people. Thanks to the class I learned

more about the social, political, heritage, and culture of the people. As an immigrant in America, I felt like I could relate, and I gained so much more respect for the culture. I came to admire the hard work, kindness, discipline, and willingness to fight for justice. One of my favorite aspects of Professor's Moreno's class was sharing our stories and discussing the lessons related to the readings. Sometimes my classmates had experienced things that were documented in the readings, and that was eye-opening. It helped me have a better understanding. I am proud and grateful to have studied with Professor Moreno. I believe that Ethnic Studies is so inspiring and crucial for not only Chicana/o Latina/o students but for everyone who respects culture and history.

Cristian Camarena, Laboratory Technician/Nurse-to-be Trained

Currently I work at the H.B Fuller Company as a **Laboratory Technician**. After attending WCC and taking the **History of Race (Ethnic Studies-6)**, I transferred to Sacramento State University and majored in biochemistry.

I work with research and development to improve adhesive recipes that can cause less damage to our environment. I appreciate my team and their values. With my training and background, I also serve to develop an inclusive quality department at our facility. I am one of two Latinos with degrees working in my facility. I am the only **DACA** recipient working at the company. In my role as a lab tech scientist, I have done my best to promote and inspire

younger generations. A pathway hasn't been fully created yet, pero así como mi padre lo hace en los files, "yo hago los surcos para plantar la semilla y así crezcan los girasoles." More work needs to be done in this area.

Working in a small worldwide company has transformed me. In addition to my love for molecules and their interactions, I have always had a passion for medicine too. I am excited to say that I recently shared the news with Professor Moreno that I just got accepted into the **nursing program at Solano College!**



Adrian Solis, Chicana/o Studies Student & Non-Profit Staff



Hello everyone. After taking almost all the courses offered in Ethnic Studies at WCC, I am among the first WCC Chicana/o Studies Alumni who transferred to University of California, Davis. Currently I am majoring in both Chicana/o Studies and Native American Studies.

At the same time I am earning my B.A.s, I also work as a professional staff at RISE's (non-profit) in Esparto. I used my leadership to serve in their afterschool program. The

organization serves a critical role in Yolo County. My future goals include obtaining a master's in counseling and in Chicana/o Studies to serve future students at resource centers like EAOP or TRIO. On my free time I enjoy hiking, weightlifting, and traveling.

Margarita Virgin, Social Work/Law

I just completed my first year at California State University, Sacramento. My background in Ethnic Studies has assisted me tremendously in understanding how society works and maintains its general flow. I took almost all the courses offered by Professor Moreno. I plan on graduating next spring with my Bachelor's in **Criminal Justice**. I am still undecided about completing a master's program in social work or law school.



Currently, I work at the **Yolo County District Attorney's Office in the Victim Services Division**. I help victims of all sorts of crime by guiding them through the criminal court system. My hobbies include helping on the ranch, spending time with my dogs, and hiking when I have time. Recently, I got engaged to my partner of 3 years and I am very excited to spend the rest of my life with the person I love!

Evelyn Manduano, Early Childhood Education

I have just completed my first year as a WCC student and have already taken Ethnic Studies courses. My goal is to finish my general education and then transfer to Sacramento State University by Spring 2022. There, I plan to major in **Early Childhood Education**.

Throughout my life, I have always been passionate about learning and mentoring youth. After I graduate, I plan to pursue a career in education, perhaps to work with children as an elementary school teacher or another type of educational professional. I am currently working as a **Reading and Writing Tutor at the WCC Student Success Center**. I am also employed at the **Woodland Public Library**. In addition, I serve



as a **Yolo County 4-H Adult Volunteer**, where I lead the **Cake Decorating Project** for youth. Outside of work and college courses, I enjoy reading, painting, boxing, and dancing.

Daniela Corpus, Early Childhood Education



Currently I am a **Migrant Head Start** teacher for infants and toddlers. I was a Head Start kid myself and I absolutely love my job. I am 21 years old and have a 2 year-old daughter. I graduated WCC in July 2020 and earned an **A.S. in Early Child Development**. As a first generation college student my journey has been full of ups and downs. I had my daughter in 2018 and took a semester off college to focus on my child. In the spring of 2020 I graduated and decided to transfer into Sac State University where I would have attended the **Cohort for Child Development and Adolescence**. Sadly, my transcripts never made it to Sac State on time. So, now I have to wait until 2023 to be a part of the Cohort.

With all this time on my hands, I decided to take an Ethnic Studies course. The first day I connected to this class and I realized the importance of **Mexican American History (ETHN-15)** and why it should be taught early in school. Coming from parents who migrated into this country I never felt connected to my Mexican side, but I also never felt American enough. If you are a first generation college student, consider taking an Ethnic Studies class. So many things that we once questioned will make sense. I thank Professor Moreno for always showing compassion and passion in her work. Seriously, we need more professors like her, and I can't wait to change lives, just like she changed mine. My goals are to graduate with a B.A and give back to my community.

Emily Henderson, Artist Director

Over the last three years, can you believe I have taken six Ethnic Studies courses at WCC!

As an established professional, I began taking Ethnic Studies classes in the spring of 2019, because I care about racial justice. I was clear that the world I grew up in was not rooted in justice, but I had no clear understanding of how and why the United States had evolved in the ways that it had. Taking Ethnic Studies courses helped me understand the histories of people of color in the US, the power of the social movements, and provided a backdrop that helped to understand current events in a clearer context. Ethnic Studies also helped me develop a clearer understanding of my responsibility to my diverse community.

Learning the histories of people of color through an Ethnic Studies framework has helped me stop feeling amorously guilty about "all of it." As a kid, I began feeling racial guilt when I was young. It was not helpful to anyone. I wish I had learned Ethnic Studies as a child, as it would have helped me name, understand, and disrupt the racial injustices I was witnessing and sometimes perpetuating. Looking back, I can see many incidents where early Ethnic Studies education would have helped me be a better friend, student, community member, employee, teacher, boss, and leader.



Currently, I work as the **Artistic Director for Acme Theatre Company** - a youth-led theatre organization. Ethnic Studies has had a deeply positive impact on my work as an educator and, in the future, I plan to apply what I have learned in my Ethnic Studies courses in the fields of either education or local government.

About our Ethnic Studies Program

To learn more about the program please visit our website, contact me, or schedule an appointment with your counselor. We offer a degree in Chicana/o Studies and another degree in Social Justice.

The Ethnic Studies program provides an interdisciplinary (i.e., social science and humanities) curriculum that prepares students to study the cultural identities and institutional forces that have shaped the histories and contributions of racial and ethnic groups in our U.S. Multicultural Society. Students of Ethnic Studies gain theories, concepts, and frameworks to critically examine and study the historical and contemporary issues of inequity impacting American society.

Program Goals and Objectives:

- meet general education requirements for all students
- prepare students planning to transfer and earn a BA degree in Ethnic Studies (e.g., Chicano Studies, African American Studies, Native American Studies, or Asian American Studies) and professional fields, including social sciences, humanities, law, teaching, social work, and public administration
- provide the skills and knowledge needed for courses transfer to four-year colleges and universities,
- help students to succeed in the pursuit of excellence in their individual academic and career goals,
- develop the social awareness of students to stimulate their leadership and community service potential,
- provide students a solid academic understanding of their socio-economic, political, and historical realities,
- development of students' ability to think critically and express themselves in an organized, logical, and critical manner

About our Chicana/o Studies AA Degree

Chicana/o Studies is a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary study of social, cultural, historical, political, ecological, and health discourses, practices, and experiences of Chicano/Latino community populations that are situated within a globalized society. The knowledge and skills of students who complete the requirements included: research writing, familiarity with theories of democratic principals and social justice, and to practice community engagement, service learning and/or public service.

Critical thinking and effective oral and written communication skills are integrated across the curriculum, which incorporates the arts and literature, cultural studies, history, the social sciences, policy studies, service learning, and active participation for social justice. Prerequisites skills include college level reading and writing. The goals of the degree include fulfilling general education, transfer requirements, university articulation requirements, and preparing students for further study in Chicana/o Studies or a social science or humanities course of study leading to BA, MA, and/or Ph.D. degrees. Chicana/o Studies provides students with career opportunities in education, social work, law, public administration, community development, the arts, ecology, and health.

Most career options require more than two years of college study. Students can begin by earning an Associate's Degree (AA) in Chicana/o Studies.

Degree Level SLOs:

1. Attend educational, cultural, or political activities related to the Chicano/a Latino/a community's social issues.
2. Express what the Mexican and Mexican American cultural experience are in a written, oral or artistic way.
3. Express in a written, oral or artistic way some of the major obstacles that the Indigenous culture of the Southwest and Mesoamerican regions have faced since having contact with European cultures.
4. Express in a written, oral or artistic way some of the contributions that women have made to the development of the Mexican and Mexican-American experience.

Fall 2021 Ethnic Studies Courses

Intr Chicano Std ETHN-1-W2827 Register Today!	Garay, E	Synchronous Online - Woodland Lecture - 2-WAY Interactive Vi	8/16/2021 - 12/16/2021	12:00 - 1:15P	M W	36
Mex Amer Hist ETHN-15-C3354 Register Today!	Rodriguez, C	Colusa Center Lecture - Face-To-Face	8/16/2021 - 12/16/2021	6:00P - 8:50P	W	18
Mex Amer Hist ETHN-15-W3334 Register Today!	Moreno, M	Synchronous Online - Woodland Lecture - 2-WAY Interactive Vi	8/16/2021 - 12/16/2021	9:00A - 10:15	Tu Th	35
Mex Amer Hist ETHN-15-W3355 Register Today!	Moreno, M	Synchronous Online - Woodland Lecture - 2-WAY Interactive Vi	8/16/2021 - 12/16/2021	1:30P - 2:45P	M W	29
Intro NA Studies ETHN-2-K2828 Register Today!	Moreno, M	Synchronous Online - Woodland Lecture - 2-WAY Interactive Vi	8/16/2021 - 12/16/2021	4:00P - 5:15P	M W	37
Chicana/O Health ETHN-21-K2430 Register Today!	Garay, E	Synchronous Online - Woodland Lecture - 2-WAY Interactive Vi	8/16/2021 - 12/16/2021	9:00A - 10:15	Tu Th	34
Hist of Race ETHN-6-D9490 Register Today!	Moreno, M	Online - Woodland Lecture - Asynchronous Online	8/16/2021 - 12/16/2021	-		16
Hist of Race ETHN-6-D9491 Register Today!	Moreno, M	Online - Woodland Lecture - Asynchronous Online	8/16/2021 - 12/16/2021	-		39
Hist of Race ETHN-6-H3356 Register Today!	Shima, T	Hybrid - Woodland Lecture - 2-WAY Interactive Vi	8/16/2021 - 12/16/2021	6:00P - 7:15P	Tu	39
Hist of Race ETHN-6-H3356 Register Today!	Shima, T	Hybrid - Woodland Lecture - Asynchronous Online	8/16/2021 - 12/16/2021	-	Tu	39

To register go to https://contactus.yccd.edu/WCC_Courses/Summer or contact Professor Moreno at mmoreno@yccd.edu

Follow us on facebook at @EthnicStudiesWCC

Visit our webpage @ <https://wcc.yccd.edu/academics/social-sciences/ethnic-studies/>



Land Acknowledgement

We should take a moment to acknowledge the land on which we are gathered. For thousands of years, this land has been the home of Patwin people. Today, there are three federally recognized Patwin tribes: Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The Patwin people have remained committed to the stewardship of this land over many centuries. It has been cherished and protected, as elders have instructed the young through generations. We are honored and grateful to be here today on their traditional lands. Approved by Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.