

## **New Course Proposal: ETN 010 Introduction to Ethnic Studies**

Submitted by Kya Mangrum (English) and Meredith Whitnah (Sociology & Anthropology)  
On Behalf of the Ethnic Studies Advisory Group

### **Rationale:**

This course will serve as one of two required courses for the revitalized Ethnic Studies minor. This is a lower-division, interdisciplinary course that introduces the key topics, questions, and approaches of ethnic studies. This new course replaces IS 196 Ethnic Studies Seminar as one of two required courses in the minor: ETN 010 will serve as an introductory, interdisciplinary course, and students will also take the existing upper-division SOC 189 course. ETN 010 is an interdisciplinary course we propose will be co-taught in Spring 2020 by a faculty member from the Humanities (Kya Mangrum) and the Social Sciences (Meredith Whitnah).

### **Course Description for the Catalog** (approved by the Academic Senate in Spring 2020):

This course is designed to frame the course work of the minor within an interdisciplinary rubric, one rooted in the literature, theories, and methodologies of Ethnic Studies. The main objectives include learning interdisciplinary theoretical perspectives and research methods, so as to understand the ways in which U.S. and global systems of power are rooted in racial, ethnic, and gender constructs, constructs which intersect with other variables, such as class, disability, and religion. The course will also foreground the historical and present relationship of Christianity and the Christian church to both national and global systems. Students will learn about the value and practical application of this kind of research within academia and for society.

### **Course Catalog Requirements** (approved by the Academic Senate in Spring 2020):

#### **Requirements for a Minor: 24 units**

#### **Required Courses: 8 units**

ETN 010 Introduction to Ethnic Studies (4)  
SOC 189 Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (4)

#### **Electives: 16 units**

AN 115 Peoples & Cultures (4)  
COM 138 International Rhetoric (4)  
ED 105 Perspectives on Cultural Diversity and Education (4)  
ENG 130 Early American Literature: Memory, Narrative, and History (4)  
ENG 134 Ethnicity and Race in American Literature (4)  
ETN 196 Ethnic Studies Research Seminar (4)  
HIS 175 Recent America (4)  
HIS 178 California Experience (4)  
PSY 132 Cultural Psychology (4)  
RS 159 Missiology (4)  
TA 140 Gender & Ethnicity on the American Stage (4)

May also include ENG 060 Writers in Conversation, ENG 143 Topics in Writing, ENG 160 Women Writers, and ENG 165 Topics in World Literature when focusing on race & ethnicity.

No more than 8 units of elective credit may be taken within the same department.

**ETN 010: Introduction to Ethnic Studies**  
Westmont College, Spring 2021  
Wednesdays 3:30-6:45pm ADM219/Remote

**Instructors**

Dr. Kya Mangrum

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805-565-6264

Reynold Hall 204

Office Hours: TBD

Dr. Meredith Whitnah

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(805) 565-6163

Deane Hall 210

Office Hours: TBD

**Course Description**

This interdisciplinary course is designed to introduce students to the theoretical perspectives and research methods of Ethnic Studies. We will examine the ways in which U.S. and global systems of power are rooted in racial, ethnic, and gender constructs, in ways that reflect both historical variation and durability. We will also consider the ways in which these constructs intersect with other variables, such as class, nationality, (dis)ability, sexuality, culture, and religion. This course uses an interdisciplinary approach that includes literature, history, politics, sociology, visual culture studies, media studies, and theology. Throughout the course, we will consider the historical and contemporary relationships of Christianity and the Christian church to both national and global systems, including how issues of racial and ethnic identity, racism, and equity are situated within the context of Christian understandings of human flourishing. This class not only introduces you to key concepts in Ethnic Studies, it also equips you with skills that will help you to lead faithfully in the pluralistic environment that is our contemporary world, and to work for social change that promotes justice and equity.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete this course should be able to do the following:

1. State and explain key concepts and methodologies in Ethnic Studies (*Assessed through Journal Entries, Participation, Unit Papers, and Final Exam*)
2. Explain the ways that U.S. & global systems of power are rooted in racial, ethnic, and gender constructs (*Aligns with Diversity ILO; assessed through Unit Papers and Final Exam*)

3. Apply an interdisciplinary set of concepts and questions to pressing social and cultural issues related to race and ethnicity (*Assessed through Participation, Unit Papers, and Final Exam*)
4. Articulate and embody intersections of Christian faith with Ethnic Studies (*Aligns with Christian Understandings & Practices ILO; assessed through Journal Entries, Participation, Unit Papers, and Final Exam*)
5. Demonstrate skills in both oral and written communication regarding race and ethnicity (*Assessed through Participation, Unit Papers, and Final Exam*)

**Required Texts:**

TBD, in terms of required purchases.

Additional materials will be available in Canvas or in a Course Reader.

**Expectations & Evaluation**

***Journal Entries on Readings*** (150 points total). Students will submit journal entry assignments that will require engagement with the readings ahead of class, and will enhance their ability to use readings to both reflect on key course themes and make strong arguments. Submit 10 out of 13 possible options. Each journal entry will be worth 15 points each.

***Participation*** (250 points total). Active and constructive participation is essential in this discussion-based course. Participation may take a variety of forms, but each student is expected to participate regularly in the class. This may mean asking a clarifying question, offering examples, critiquing an idea, actively engaging other students in a small group, or otherwise contributing to the discussion. Participation will be graded on a full-credit, half-credit, zero-credit basis.

***Unit Papers*** (300 points total). For each of the three units of the course, you will submit a 3 to 4-page essay. These papers will require you to consider how your own racial and ethnic identity intersects with the themes of the course, including your sense of self, your involvement in communities and structures, your vocational aspirations, and your engagement with Christian faith. Detailed prompts will be distributed in class. Essays will be evaluated for their clarity, thoughtfulness, quality of writing, and engagement with assigned readings and course material. Each essay will be submitted via Canvas on the due date listed in the syllabus. Each paper will be 100 points (300 points total).

***Final Exam*** (300 points). The final exam will be cumulative, and will be a combination of short answer and essay questions. It will cover the major themes of the course, requiring you to synthesize the course material. We will provide more information about the exam as we approach it. The final exam will be on Tuesday, May 4 from 3-5pm.

### **Final Grades:**

Your final grade will be the total points you have earned out of 1000 total possible points:

Journal Entries	150
Participation	250
Unit Papers	300
Final Exam	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>

These scores will be converted to letter grades according to the following scale:

A: 940-1000	B+: 870-899	C+: 770-799	D: 600-699
A-: 900-939	B: 830-869	C: 730-769	F: below 600
	B-: 800-829	C-: 700-729	

### **Course Policies**

***Etiquette:*** We will discuss topics in this class that can be sensitive, and it is important that we create a culture of respect and empathy. Our hope is that together we will cultivate an environment of active engagement, where we ask good questions, ponder complex and difficult topics, and appreciate the different places from which we may each be approaching a given issue. We will engage with one another and the course material with civility and openness, even when we disagree or do not understand.

***Deadlines and Late Work:*** No late work will be accepted in this course unless an unforeseen and unavoidable crisis occurs. You must provide written documentation of the crisis to be granted an extension. You must notify us as soon as possible if an emergency occurs that prevents your submission of your work, and we will work with you to establish a reasonable deadline.

***Grade Appeals:*** Any grade appeal must be submitted *in writing* within *one week* from the time an assignment is returned in class. Giving specific examples from your assignment and my comments, you must explain why you believe you received the wrong grade. We will then re-grade the assignment. However, this may result in a lower, higher, or exactly the same grade.

***Course Communication:*** Please put “ETN 010” in the subject line of emails. You are expected to check your email and Canvas every day. Generally, we respond to emails within 24 hours. We do not respond to emails in the evenings and over weekends. You are welcome to email us or post to the general FAQ Discussion Board on Canvas with any brief questions about the course (e.g., clarifying a reading assignment). Please arrange to talk with us if you have specific questions about the material, are confused about concepts, want to talk about how a paper is progressing, etc. We are very happy to discuss these issues with you.

**Office Hours and Meetings:** Please feel free to make an appointment with us during office hours (via Google Calendar). We encourage you to be proactive. Please do not leave questions, challenges, or issues to the last minute. We are very happy to meet with you!

**Academic Integrity:** Policies on academic integrity will be strictly enforced. Any student who violates the principles of academic integrity will fail the assignment, and possibly the course. It is your responsibility to read and be familiar with Westmont's Academic Integrity Policy: <https://www.westmont.edu/office-provost/academic-program/academic-integrity-policy>

To be clear: **Any written work you submit in this class must be your own, and any use of another person's ideas must be properly cited.** Collegiality is encouraged. You are welcome to discuss ideas with one another, provide feedback on paper drafts, etc. But you may not use anyone else's ideas (written or verbal) without citing him or her, you must properly cite texts that you are drawing from (both when directly quoting and when referencing without a quote), and of course you may not turn in any work that someone else has completed (fully or partially) for you. You also may not submit the same work for any two courses without prior permission from your professors. If you have any questions about what counts as academic dishonesty, please ask us.

**Accessibility and Accommodations:** Students who choose to disclose a disability are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) as early as possible in the semester to discuss possible accommodations for this course. Formal accommodations will only be granted for students whose disabilities have been verified by the ODS. Accommodations are designed to minimize the impact of a disability and ensure equal access to programs for all students with disabilities. Please contact [ods@westmont.edu](mailto:ods@westmont.edu) or visit the website for more information: <http://www.westmont.edu/offices/disability>. ODS is located upstairs in Voskuyl Library, Rooms 310, 311A.

**Wellness:** If you become ill, experience stress or anxiety, have family issues that need to be addressed, have difficulty navigating your classes, or any other issue comes up in the term, we encourage you to seek assistance and to take good care of yourself. This could, for instance, mean contacting CAPS: <https://www.westmont.edu/counseling-and-psychological-services>.

**Writing Assistance:** Students are encouraged to make use of Writers' Corner, the writing center on campus. Tutors support peers as they mature into more skillful and confident writers. Tutorials are free of charge. Make an appointment using WOnline at <https://westmont.mywconline.com/>. Please ask us for help if you find you do not understand the concepts and arguments we are working through in the course.

## Topics and Reading Schedule

### Unit 1: Introducing Ethnic Studies

Week 1: What are race and ethnicity? What is racism?

Excerpts from Omi & Winant, *Racial Formation in the United States*  
Sollers, “Ethnicity and Race” in *A Companion to Racial and Ethnic Studies*  
Excerpts from Kendi, Excerpts from *Stamped from the Beginning*  
“Race the Power of an Illusion” (Part 1)

Week 2: How do we study race and ethnicity?

“Race the Power of an Illusion” (Part 2)  
“Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color” by Kimberle  
Williams Crenshaw  
Excerpts from Angela Davis by *Women, Race, and Class*  
Excerpts from bell hooks *All About Love*  
The Combahee River Collective Statement

Week 3: How do we study race and ethnicity in the context of Christian faith?

“Race the Power of an Illusion” (Part 3)  
Excerpts from *Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of  
Discovery* by Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Rah  
Excerpts from *The Baptism of Early Virginia* by Rebecca Anne Goetz  
Excerpts from *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race* by Willie  
James Jennings  
Introduction to Layla Saad *Me and White Supremacy* (will lead into Paper 2)

*Unit Paper 1 due by 5pm Friday*

### Unit 2: Groupness in Historical & Contemporary Context

Week 4: Native America

Excerpts from *An Indigenous People's History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-  
Ortiz  
Short Stories by Zitkala-Sa (Yankton Dakota)  
Excerpts from *Bad Indian* by Deborah Miranda (Chumash)  
Poems by Joy Harjo (Muscogee)

Week 5: African America

Paul Ortiz--*An African American and Latinx History of the United States*  
Excerpts from *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman  
*The Souls of Black Folk* by W.E.B. DuBois

Excerpts from *Wayward Lives* by Saidiya Hartman  
Excerpts from *The Undercommons* by Fred Moten  
“A Small Needful Fact” by Ross Gay

Week 6: Latinx America

Paul Ortiz--An African American and Latinx History of the United States  
Excerpts from *Brown Church: Five Centuries of Latina/o Social Justice, Theology, and Identity* by Robert Chao Romero  
Ian Haney Lopez, “Race and Colorblindness after *Hernandez* and *Brown*”  
Excerpts from Gloria Anzaldua, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*  
Poems by Juan Felipe Herrera, Carmen Tafolla, and Richard Blanco

Week 7: Asian America

Erika Lee--The Making of Asian America: A History  
Excerpts from Evelyn Nakanno Glenn, *Unequal Freedom*  
Excerpts from *Nothing Ever Dies* by Viet Thanh Nguyen  
*American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs* (documentary film) directed  
by Grace Lee  
Excerpts from *From a Liminal Place: An Asian-American Theology* by Sang-Hyun Lee

Week 8: White America

Joe Feagin excerpts from *White Racial Frame*  
Excerpt from *The Invention of the White Race* by Theodore Allen  
Essay by Nell Irving Painter  
Excerpts from *Trouble I've Seen* by Drew G.I. Hart  
Excerpts from *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men* by James Agee and Walker Evans  
“Recitatif” by Toni Morrison

Week 9: Wrap-Up; Christian engagement

Excerpts from *White Awake* by Daniel Hill  
Excerpts from *Healing Racial Trauma: The Road to Resilience* by Sheila Wise Rowe

*Unit 2 Paper due by 5pm Friday*

**Unit 3: Engaging with Race and Ethnicity Interdisciplinarily**

*Readings TBD, in consultation with guest speakers*

Week 10: Culture

Week 11: History

Week 12: Politics

Week 13: Religion

Week 14: Science

Week 15: Course Wrapup

Excerpts from *The Death of Race: Building a New Christianity in a Racial World* by  
Brian Bantum

*Unit 3 Paper due by 5pm Friday*

***Final Exam from 3-5pm on Tuesday, May 4.***



**ETN 010 Introduction to Ethnic Studies Course Proposal**  
**Appendix 1: List of Possible Collaborators**

We envision collaborations within Westmont and through broader networks to facilitate the interdisciplinarity of this course.

NOTE: We haven't received a definitive answer from the Provost's Office about funds yet, but considering the current pandemic and financial situation, we understand it may depend on what happens second semester. We will work with departments as needed to provide small stipends for contributors.

*List of Possible External Contributors*

Soong-Chah Rah  
Russell Jeong  
Leon Harris  
Robert Chao Romero  
Nancy Yuen

*List of Possible Internal Contributors*

Blake Thomas  
Tom Knecht  
Chandra Mallampalli  
Alister Chapman  
Rachel Winslow  
Serah Shani  
Charles Farhadian  
Carmel Saad  
Sameer Yadav  
Dinora Cardoso  
Mary Docter  
Amanda Sparkman  
Yi-Fan Lu

**ETN 010 Introduction to Ethnic Studies**  
**Appendix 2: Expression of Library Support for Resources**

**Jana Mayfield Mullen <jmayfield@westmont.edu>**

**Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 10:23 AM**

**To: Kya Mangrum <kmangrum@westmont.edu>**

**Cc: Meredith Whitnah <mwhitnah@westmont.edu>, Diane Ziliotto <dziliott@westmont.edu>**

Dear Kya,

Sorry about the delay in responding to this yesterday.

The short answer is - yes, of course! I think this type of interdisciplinary minor would naturally be funded through our Diversity book allocation. And we purchase journals two ways - either as part of a larger collection in a database like Humanities Source (EBSCO), or individually.

Long answer and a question:

- What is the name of ETN 010 course? And when will it be taught? (sorry, that's two questions.)
- If you have specific titles - of either monographs, reference works, journals, or primary source collections - please send them to Diane Ziliotto, as she is both Soc/Anthro and English liaison. She will be happy to work with you on purchasing these resources. Also, Diane and Kyndal Vogt will coordinate any journal requests to find the best source for you and your students.

Thank you for reaching out to us,  
Jana

PS Made it to the chiropractor  
[Quoted text hidden]

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Jana Mayfield Mullen, MDiv, PhD, MLIS  
Director, Voskuyl Library  
[jmayfield@westmont.edu](mailto:jmayfield@westmont.edu)  
805-565-6144 (desk)  
805-455-2328 (cell)

***Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.***

***Psalm 31:24***



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