

# GEOG 135: Ethnic Studies, Place, and Social Justice

## Purpose and Goals

Ethnic Studies, Place, and Social Justice (GEOG 135) is a new course at Cerritos College that combines Ethnic Studies curriculum with geographic thought.

## Student Population Served

This course fulfills the CSU Area F Ethnic Studies requirement and has been particularly popular with students interested in transferring to the Cal State system. This course engages with core Ethnic Studies concepts like race, racism, racialization, ethnicity, equity, white supremacy, settler colonialism, and anti-racism. These themes are then analyzed from a geographic perspective that highlights knowledge producers from African American, Native American, Asian American and Latinx communities.

## Number of Students Served Annually and Capacity

Over the last two years, we've served 300+ students.

We are looking toward further expanding our offerings in the future to possibly include Dual Enrollment.

## High-Impact Interventions

Students have had very high completion and success rates in this course. This may be attributed to the grounding of course topics in the communities that Cerritos College serves.

## Intended Impacts and Measured Outcomes

Here are a few of the questions students consider in this class: How have our cities become so racially segregated and unequal? Where are environmental hazards located? Why there? How do different ethnic and racial identities create unique places as a reflection of their culture? Why are our schools so racially segregated and why does this inequality persist? Why are certain ethnic and racial groups disproportionately burdened with crime, over policing, and having their residents sent to prison? Why are communities of color disproportionately burdened by gentrification and displacement? In what ways have the memories and histories of ethnic and racial groups been excluded from public space and public memory?

## Did You Know?

We hope to offer our students an analytic lens to understand their place in the already constructed worlds they inhabit and the tools to participate in the creation of a more just future.

