Multicultural Studies is a one-semester elective history and sociology course that examines the United States as a multicultural nation. The course emphasizes the perspectives of minority groups while allowing students from all backgrounds to better understand and appreciate how race, culture and ethnicity, and identity contribute to their experiences.

Major topics in the course include identity, immigration, assimilation and distinctiveness, power and oppression, struggles for rights, regionalism, culture and the media, and the formation of new cultures.

In online Discussions and Polls, students reflect critically on their own experiences as well as those of others. Interactive multimedia activities include personal and historical accounts to which students can respond using methods of inquiry from history, sociology, and psychology. Written assignments and Journals provide opportunities for students to practice and develop skills for thinking and communicating about race, culture, ethnicity, and identity.

The content and skill focus of this interdisciplinary course is based on the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Expectations of Excellence: Curriculum Standards for Social Studies as well as the National Standards for History published by the National Center for History in Schools (NCHS).

Length: One semester

UNIT 1: IDENTITY

LESSON 1: WHAT IS MY IDENTITY?

Study: Poll: Who Am I?
Answer poll questions about how you define yourself.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Study: Who Am I?
Explore the different aspects of identity and the factors that influence our identities.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Aspects of Identity
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 20 min Scoring: 30 points

Discuss: What Is Your Identity?
Map the parts of your identity and reflect on the role each part plays in how you think of yourself.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: FAMILY AND IDENTITY

Study: Poll: How Does Family Influence Your Identity?
Answer poll questions about how family has influenced your identity.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Study: Family and Family History
Learn about how family influences identity.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Family History and Identity
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 20 min Scoring: 30 points

Practice: Family History and Identity
Interview a family member about a story from his or her past that has shaped his or her identity.
Duration: 1 hr 30 min Scoring: 50 points

LESSON 3: SOCIAL IDENTITY

Study: Poll: Social Identity
Answer questions about how you see others and how they might see you.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Study: Social Identity
Explore how our membership in different groups can affect the messages we get about our identity as we go through life.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Social Identity
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 20 min Scoring: 30 points

Journal: My Social Identities
Choose three of your social identities (for example, race, class, and gender) and reflect on how each has affected your life so far.
Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points

LESSON 4: GROUP CONFLICT AND INTERACTION

Study: Poll: Identifying Stereotypes
Consider your own views about stereotypes and why different groups don't get along in society.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Study: Group Conflict and Interaction
Examine different theories about what happens when groups interact with each other.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Group Conflict and Interaction
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 20 min Scoring: 30 points

Discuss: Group Conflict and Interaction
Discuss with your peers how stereotypes have influenced your social interactions.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 5: IDENTITY WRAP-UP

Review: Identity
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Duration: 2 hr 30 min Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Identity
Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC

Diagnostic: Identity
Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 20 points

UNIT 2: CULTURE IN A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

LESSON 1: WHAT IS CULTURE?

Study: Poll: What's Your Culture?
Consider how you define culture and what cultures you consider yourself to be a part of.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Study: What Are Your Cultures?
Explore what culture is and how it shapes our identities.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: What Is Culture?
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 20 min Scoring: 30 points

Journal: What Cultures Do You Belong To?
Reflect on your different cultural identities and how they are represented in your life.
Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points

LESSON 2: CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

Study: Poll: Cultural Perspectives
Consider how culture influences your perspective.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Study: How Culture Influences Perspective
Learn how culture can influence one's perspective and ideas about what is "normal" or "right."
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Culture and Perspective
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 20 min Scoring: 30 points

Discuss: Culture and Perspective
Compare your perspective on various scenarios with those of your peers. Discuss the similarities and differences between your points of view.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 3: A MULTICULTURAL POINT OF VIEW

Study: Poll: Cultural Diversity
Consider your experiences with different ethnic cultures and how they have affected your understanding of yourself and other people.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points
Study: Living among Other Cultures
Examine what can be learned from experiencing cultures different from your own.
*Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points*

**Quiz: Cultural Diversity**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
*Duration: 0 hr 20 min Scoring: 30 points*

**Practice: Cultural Plunge**
Immerse yourself in another culture and reflect on your observations and experience.
*Duration: 1 hr 30 min Scoring: 50 points*

**LESSON 4: CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION**

**Study: Poll: Cross-Cultural Communication**
Consider your comfort and skill level communicating with people from cultures different from your own.
*Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points*

**Study: Styles and Strategies of Cross-Cultural Communication**
Explore differences in communication styles across cultures and learn strategies for communicating.
*Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points*

**Quiz: Cross-Cultural Communication**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
*Duration: 0 hr 20 min Scoring: 30 points*

**Discuss: Courageous Dialogue**
Discuss your experience bridging cultural differences in order to communicate with someone.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points*

**LESSON 5: CULTURE IN A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY WRAP-UP**

**Review: Culture in a Multicultural Society**
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
*Duration: 2 hr 30 min Scoring: 0 points*

**Test (CS): Culture in a Multicultural Society**
Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 50 points*

**Test (TS): Culture in a Multicultural Society**
Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
*Duration: 0 hr 50 min Scoring: 50 points*

**LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC**

**Diagnostic: Culture in a Multicultural Society**
Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.
*Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 20 points*

**UNIT 3: RACE AND IDENTITY**

**LESSON 1: THE ORIGINS OF RACE AND RACISM IN THE UNITED STATES**

**Study: Poll: What Are Your Race, Culture, Ethnicity, and Nationality?**
Answer poll questions about your own race, culture, ethnicity, and nationality.
*Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points*
Study: The Origins of Race and Racism
Learn about the origins of race and racism in America, including racism's development in conjunction with slavery and its role in determining privilege.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: The Origins of Race and Racism
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 20 min Scoring: 30 points

Discuss: The Origins of Race and Racism
Write about how the lesson confirmed your ideas about race, raised questions, or changed your viewpoint.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 2: AMERICAN INDIAN IDENTITY

Study: Poll: What Is True about American Indians?
Answer a series of questions about American Indians.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Study: Native People in This Land
Learn how perceptions of American Indians have influenced U.S. actions and policy toward native people.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Native People in This Land
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 20 min Scoring: 30 points

Discuss: Whose Home Is It?
Reflect on what it means to call the US home — and who has the right to call this land "home."
Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 3: IMMIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Journal: Respond: How Did Your Family Come to the United States?
Write about your family's journey to the United States.
Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points

Study: Poll: What Should the U.S. Immigration Policy Be?
Answer questions about your views on immigration.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Study: Immigration and Identity
Explore the various waves of immigration and various groups' struggles to gain the full rights of American citizens.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Immigration and Identity
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 20 min Scoring: 30 points

Practice: Is This Gold Mountain?
Demonstrate your understanding of different types of immigration and the discrimination specific groups of immigrants face.
Duration: 1 hr 30 min Scoring: 50 points

LESSON 4: CONTESTED RIGHTS
**Study: Poll: Do All Americans Have the Same Rights?**
Respond to a series of questions related to different groups' efforts to gain rights in the United States.
*Duration: 0 hr 25 min* *Scoring: 0 points*

**Study: Am I an American?**
Learn about resistance movements in which people fought for full citizenship.
*Duration: 0 hr 25 min* *Scoring: 0 points*

**Quiz: Am I an American?**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
*Duration: 0 hr 20 min* *Scoring: 30 points*

**Journal: How Has Race Affected My Life?**
Write about how race has affected your life.
*Duration: 0 hr 40 min* *Scoring: 40 points*

**LESSON 5: RACE AND IDENTITY WRAP-UP**

**Review: Race and Identity**
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
*Duration: 2 hr 30 min* *Scoring: 0 points*

**Test (CS): Race and Identity**
Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min* *Scoring: 50 points*

**Test (TS): Race and Identity**
Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
*Duration: 0 hr 50 min* *Scoring: 50 points*

**LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC**

**Diagnostic: Race and Identity**
Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.
*Duration: 0 hr 25 min* *Scoring: 20 points*

**UNIT 4: THE MEDIA, RACE, AND IDENTITY**

**LESSON 1: DECONSTRUCTING THE MEDIA**

**Study: Poll: What Messages Are You Sending Me?**
Consider the messages you get from advertisements about what the advertised products could do for you.
*Duration: 0 hr 25 min* *Scoring: 0 points*

**Study: Deconstructing the Media**
Learn how to identify the messages being sent to you in any type of medium.
*Duration: 0 hr 25 min* *Scoring: 0 points*

**Quiz: Deconstructing the Media**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
*Duration: 0 hr 20 min* *Scoring: 30 points*

**Discuss: Break It Down**
Observe and discuss the messages communicated in a number of advertisements.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min* *Scoring: 15 points*

**LESSON 2: STEREOTYPES IN EARLY MEDIA**
**Study: Poll: What Do You See?**
Consider the stereotypes of different racial groups in early media images.
*Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points*

**Study: Stereotypes in Early Media**
Learn about the origins of different racial stereotypes in early media forms.
*Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points*

**Quiz: Stereotypes in Early Media**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
*Duration: 0 hr 20 min Scoring: 30 points*

**Journal: Deconstructing Early Media**
Analyze a series of images and discuss whether they reflect or influence society.
*Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points*

**LESSON 3: THE STRUGGLE FOR SELF-REPRESENTATION IN THE MEDIA**

**Study: Poll: Who Represents Whom?**
Consider whether stereotypes of different races in the media have changed over time.
*Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points*

**Study: The Struggle for Self-Representation in the Media**
Examine how and why images of different races in the media have changed over time.
*Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points*

**Quiz: The Struggle for Self-Representation in the Media**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
*Duration: 0 hr 20 min Scoring: 30 points*

**Practice: What's the Story?**
Analyze and explain the change in images of a particular racial group.
*Duration: 1 hr 30 min Scoring: 50 points*

**LESSON 4: RACE IN TODAY'S MEDIA: WHAT'S THE MESSAGE?**

**Study: Poll: How Is Race Portrayed in the Media Today?**
Consider how race is portrayed in the media today.
*Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points*

**Study: Race in Today's Media: What's the Message?**
Analyze messages about race in present-day media.
*Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points*

**Quiz: Race in Today's Media: What's the Message?**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
*Duration: 0 hr 20 min Scoring: 30 points*

**Discuss: What Do You Believe?**
Develop and share your opinion about how much progress has been made in eliminating racial stereotypes in the media.
*Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points*

**LESSON 5: THE MEDIA, RACE, AND IDENTITY WRAP-UP**

**Review: The Media, Race, and Identity**
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Test (CS): The Media, Race, and Identity
Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 50 points

Test (TS): The Media, Race, and Identity
Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Duration: 0 hr 50 min Scoring: 50 points

LESSON 6: THE MEDIA, RACE, AND IDENTITY

Diagnostic: The Media, Race, and Identity
Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 20 points

UNIT 5: UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING RACISM IN THE UNITED STATES

LESSON 1: RACISM IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY

Study: Poll: Is It Racism?
Read scenarios and decide if you think they are examples of racism.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Study: Racism Today
Learn about current issues that concern race and explore their connections to historical events.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Racism Today
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 20 min Scoring: 30 points

Journal: Is This a New Day?
Reflect upon where we stand with racism today.
Duration: 0 hr 40 min Scoring: 40 points

LESSON 2: THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Study: Poll: What Are They Fighting For?
Read scenarios and label whether each group was fighting for political, economic, civil, educational, or cultural rights.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Study: Fighting for Rights Today
Learn about the modern-day activists and organizations fighting racism.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Fighting for Rights Today
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 20 min Scoring: 30 points

Practice: The Fight for Rights
Write an essay in which you compare and contrast a modern-day example of ending racism with a historical one.
Duration: 1 hr 30 min Scoring: 50 points

LESSON 3: TALKING ABOUT RACE IN AMERICA
Study: Poll: Does Race Still Matter?
Read some present-day scenarios and decide if you think race affected the outcome of those situations.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Study: Fitting in a Box
Learn about the current debate about race in this country.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Conversations about Race
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 20 min Scoring: 30 points

Discuss: Does Race Still Matter?
Respond to Cornel West's assertion that race still matters in the United States.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 4: ENDING RACISM IN OUR PERSONAL LIVES

Study: Poll: Ending Racism in Our Personal Lives
Decide how you would act in different situations involving race.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Study: Ending Racism in Your Life
Learn about concrete strategies for building meaningful relationships with people of all backgrounds.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Ending Racism in Your Life
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hr 20 min Scoring: 30 points

Discuss: What Would You Do?
Read a scenario about racism and explain how you would respond if it were happening to you.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 5: UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING RACISM IN THE UNITED STATES WRAP-UP

Review: Understanding and Addressing Racism in the United States
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Duration: 2 hr 30 min Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Understanding and Addressing Racism in the United States
Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Duration: 0 hr 30 min Scoring: 50 points

Test (TS): Understanding and Addressing Racism in the United States
Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Duration: 0 hr 50 min Scoring: 50 points

LESSON 6: DIAGNOSTIC

Diagnostic: Understanding and Addressing Racism in the United States
Take a diagnostic unit test that will generate a study plan based on your responses.
Duration: 0 hr 25 min Scoring: 20 points

UNIT 6: MULTICULTURAL STUDIES REVIEW AND EXAM
LESSON 1: MULTICULTURAL STUDIES REVIEW AND EXAM

Review: Multicultural Studies Review
Prepare for the exam by reviewing key concepts covered in this course.
Duration: 3 hr Scoring: 0 points

Exam: Multicultural Studies
Take a computer-scored exam to demonstrate your mastery of concepts and skills covered in this course.
Duration: 1 hr 30 min Scoring: 60 points

Final Exam: Multicultural Studies
Take a teacher-scored exam covering important concepts and skills throughout the course.
Duration: 0 hr 50 min Scoring: 60 points