

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.

This course is built to state standards and informed by 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Who Am I?

Explore the different aspects of identity and the factors that influence our identities.

Duration: 0 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Aspects of Identity

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins 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 hrs 30 mins 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Family and Family History

Learn about how family influences identity.

Duration: 0 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Family History and Identity

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins 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 mins 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 hrs 25 mins 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Social Identity

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins 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 hrs 40 mins 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Group Conflict and Interaction

Examine different theories about what happens when groups interact with each other.

Duration: 0 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Group Conflict and Interaction

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 30 points

Discuss: Group Conflict and Interaction

Discuss with your peers how stereotypes have influenced your social interactions.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 15 points

LESSON 5: IDENTITY WRAP-UP

Review: Identity

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 2 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Identity

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 50 points

Test (TS): Identity

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 50 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: What Are Your Cultures?

Explore what culture is and how it shapes our identities.

Duration: 0 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: What Is Culture?

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins 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 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

LESSON 2: CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES**Study: Poll: Cultural Perspectives**

Consider how culture influences your perspective.

Duration: 0 hrs 25 mins 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Culture and Perspective

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins 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 hrs 30 mins 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Living among Other Cultures

Examine what can be learned from experiencing cultures different from your own.

Duration: 0 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Cultural Diversity

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 30 points

Practice: Cultural Plunge

Immerse yourself in another culture and reflect on your observations and experience.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins 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 hrs 25 mins 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Cross-Cultural Communication

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 30 points

Discuss: Courageous Dialogue

Discuss your experience bridging cultural differences in order to communicate with someone.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins 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 hrs 30 mins 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 hrs 30 mins 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 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 50 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 hrs 25 mins 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: The Origins of Race and Racism

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins 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 hrs 30 mins 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 hrs 25 mins 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Native People in This Land

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins 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 hrs 30 mins 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 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

Study: Poll: What Should the U.S. Immigration Policy Be?

Answer questions about your views on immigration.

Duration: 0 hrs 25 mins 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Immigration and Identity

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins 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 mins 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Am I an American?

Learn about resistance movements in which people fought for full citizenship.

Duration: 0 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Am I an American?

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 30 points

Journal: How Has Race Affected My Life?

Write about how race has affected your life.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins 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 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Race and Identity

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 50 points

Test (TS): Race and Identity

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 50 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Deconstructing the Media

Learn how to identify the messages being sent to you in any type of medium.

Duration: 0 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Deconstructing the Media

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 30 points

Discuss: Break It Down

Observe and discuss the messages communicated in a number of advertisements.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Stereotypes in Early Media

Learn about the origins of different racial stereotypes in early media forms.

Duration: 0 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Stereotypes in Early Media

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 30 points

Journal: Deconstructing Early Media

Analyze a series of images and discuss whether they reflect or influence society.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins 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 hrs 25 mins 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: The Struggle for Self-Representation in the Media

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 30 points

Practice: What's the Story?

Analyze and explain the change in images of a particular racial group.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Race in Today's Media: What's the Message?

Analyze messages about race in present-day media.

Duration: 0 hrs 25 mins 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 hrs 20 mins 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 hrs 30 mins 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.

Duration: 2 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): The Media, Race, and Identity

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins 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 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 50 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Racism Today

Learn about current issues that concern race and explore their connections to historical events.

Duration: 0 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Racism Today

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 30 points

Journal: Is This a New Day?

Reflect upon where we stand with racism today.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Fighting for Rights Today

Learn about the modern-day activists and organizations fighting racism.

Duration: 0 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Fighting for Rights Today

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins 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 mins 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Fitting in a Box

Learn about the current debate about race in this country.

Duration: 0 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Conversations about Race

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 30 points

Discuss: Does Race *Still* Matter?

Respond to Cornel West's assertion that race still matters in the United States.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins 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 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Ending Racism in Your Life

Learn about concrete strategies for building meaningful relationships with people of all backgrounds.

Duration: 0 hrs 25 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Ending Racism in Your Life

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins 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 hrs 30 mins 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 hrs 30 mins 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 hrs 30 mins 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 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 50 points

UNIT 6: REVIEW AND EXAM

LESSON 1: REVIEW AND EXAM

Review: Review

Prepare for the exam by reviewing key concepts covered in this course.

Duration: 3 hrs Scoring: 0 points

Exam: Exam

Take a computer-scored exam to demonstrate your mastery of concepts and skills covered in this course.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 60 points

Final Exam: Exam

Take a teacher-scored exam covering important concepts and skills throughout the course.

Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 60 points