

Oregon Ethnic Studies Integrated Social Science

Themes and Possible Essential Questions:

2021 ETHNIC STUDIES INTEGRATED SOCIAL SCIENCE STANDARDS

The 2021 Social Science Standards shift and expand the perspective on history, geography, civics, and economics in Oregon's K-12 classrooms.



The [2021 ethnic studies integrated social science standards](#) continue to be arranged by the traditional domains of civics, geography, economics, and history. In reviewing the new standards, themes emerge that can help establish Essential Questions to drive lessons, units, or a year-long scope and sequence. Below are brief descriptors and optional examples of Essential Questions.

Identity- Formation of identity. The intersection of identities. An examination of how identity shapes worldview/perspective.

1. How are our identities constructed?
2. How may race, ethnicity, gender, sex, orientation, national origin, first language, physical/emotional/ developmental (dis)ability, age, economic status, or religious/spiritual affiliation factor in identity formation?
3. Can identities be both chosen and given?
4. What are the different facets of our identity?
5. Is it possible to have a collective identity? School, community, state, national? How have societies addressed the individual and the collective?

Resistance- Identify the types of oppression (institutional, political, legal, cultural, economic, custom, etc.) and examine individual and/or group strategies for undermining, combating, and overcoming oppression.

1. What are the types of oppression?
2. What are the forms of resistance?
3. What values or beliefs are important to maintain through resistance?
4. Why do people resist?
5. How have people challenged oppression?
6. Why was non-violent resistance successful?
7. Is physical resistance ever justified?

Resilience -Exploring how individuals and groups overcome adversity through traditions, cultural values, language, the arts, sports, celebrations, community engagement, and politics.

1. What forces keep communities together when faced with adversity?
2. What is the role of traditions or celebrations in overcoming adversity?
3. How do communities facing oppression express joy?
4. How can resilience be politically significant?

Histories- Developing an understanding of the history of traditionally underrepresented groups with or without interaction with the dominant/colonial society.

1. What was life like prior to enslavement, colonization, dispossession, diaspora, etc.?
2. How can and how have communities overcome oppression?
3. How can the role of perpetrator, collaborator, bystander, and rescuer be fluid? How can a person move from one of these roles to another, or be in multiple roles at the same time?
4. Why and how do societies remember and memorialize events and people? How do we recognize and value the range of survivor and victim experiences?

Civic Engagement- Create an understanding and appreciation of successful and unsuccessful movements that strive toward “Liberty and Justice for All.”

1. How do we engage with our knowledge to empower collective action for change in ourselves, communities, and the environment?
2. How can we create or improve a culture of civic discourse?
3. What goals can we identify in achieving a condition of social justice?
4. To what rights should every individual be entitled? How do people value/respect the rights of others? What responsibility do we have to promote universal human rights?
5. How does government address political, social, and/or economic tensions within a society?
6. What responsibility do people and governments have for protecting the rights of their citizens compared to people in other nation-states?
7. To what extent is an individual responsible for challenging unjust rules or norms in society?
8. To what extent are communities (religious organizations, student groups, civic organizations, social and political groups, etc.) responsible for challenging injustice in the rules and norms of society?
9. What are different tools people can use to challenge injustice? When, why, and how can each tool be effective?