Critical Ethnic and Gender Studies General Education Requirement
What we are asking for

In order for UIC to create a culture of knowledgeable compassion, we must educate the student body to ensure students have a deeper understanding of the histories of this country and its impacts on today’s society.

3-credit General Education Course on Critical Ethnic and Gender Studies

Black Studies, Gender and Women Studies, Global Asian Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies, and Native American Studies

Currently have categories in General Education that are similar, but not as specific to contending with structural racism. We currently also do not have a diversity requirement in general education
Diversity at UIC

While programs such as cultural centers and Office of Diversity have been created to help UIC campus progress towards a more unifying community, they also indicate the need for us to help the student body (and society as a whole) become more aware, caring, empathetic of each other. This is curated by educating on the realities of the historic traumas that are ingrained in this country’s institutions.

UIC is a

- Minority Serving Institution
- Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution
- Hispanic Serving Institution

This proposal furthers support for the demands letter of Black Students at UIC.
Statistics on Success

- **Dee & Penner 2016:**
  - Stanford study on 3 San Francisco schools w/ 1500 students over 4 years
  - Examined students w/ similar GPAs some of whom enrolled in ethnic studies
  - Found an increase of: 1.4 GPA points, 21% attendance points, and 23 more class credits

- **Monteiro 2010:**
  - Evaluated 6-year graduation rates at SFSU
  - Ethnic studies majors graduated at 25% higher rate than their peers; non-ethnic studies majors who passed 1 ethnic studies course graduated at a 15% higher rate

- **Sleeter 2011:**
  - Natl. Edu Assoc. reviewed studies on the value of Ethnic Studies in K-12 and higher ed
  - A non-Eurocentric/watered down version of history has shown to benefit White students and students of color (on metrics like engagement, and academic achievement)
  - Teaching about racism had a stronger positive impact than just representing racism
Short History/Current Progress

- CSU system implements a graduation requirement of one, 3-credit course in ethnic studies
  - Restricted to prevent other social justice courses from fulfilling this
  - Allows for transfer students/community college credits to fulfill
  - Ask to allow upper level and lower level courses in ethnic studies to be included
- Similar ongoing efforts at places like the University of Georgia, University of Wisconsin, University of California, Berkeley
- Data from the First-Year Writing Program at UIC
Questions?