

**Dr Emma Holmes Faculty Fellow 2022**  
**Julián Jefferies, PhD**

This project allowed me to collaborate with Berta Jimenez and the Spanish Department at Magnolia High School in the Anaheim Union High School District in curriculum design, lesson-planning, provision of grade and level appropriate reading materials and involvement of pre-service teachers in a high school setting.

**Impact on my practice**

This project has given me the chance to collaborate with a high school teacher in designing curricula, lesson plans and activities for an Ethnic Studies requirement class that will be taught in Spanish. Berta Jimenez and I were able to talk about new materials, ways to engage students, share techniques to engage students and also revise the ethnic studies requirements for high school in order to better teach them. This was an invaluable experience that helped me renew my engagement in the field of literacy and ethnic studies. It was also very invaluable to be able to see this curriculum in action as I visited classes and saw how students responded to it.

In a high school where many of the students speak Spanish at home, this was a great way to develop their home literacies and attract more students to these courses. Since schools in Anaheim are now tasked to provide an ethnic studies requirement for the students, this was a great way to attract students to take a class where they can develop literacy in their home language. Since students are motivated to take classes that connect them with their ethnicity, culture and language, this course helped them strengthen their Spanish while teaching them about their ethnicity. The intent of this course is to teach students intermediate Spanish literacy, speaking, reading and communication skills, while expanding their awareness of the role of ethnic groups in a diverse American society and the Spanish-speaking world providing a more diverse/global perspective and a sense of empathy for others and understanding social justice.

**Impact on the College of Education**

This project allowed me to involve pre-service teachers in my undergraduate classes with Magnolia High School to realize service activities in a setting with a high percentage of low income and Spanish-speaking students. We were able to visit Berta Jimenez's class, see the curriculum in action, observe students engaging in the activities and observing students. This had a great impact on students looking to work in a high school level and engage with service and research projects that are directly linked to creating best practices for teaching literacy.

**Renewed engagement in the field**

I am excited to keep collaborating with Berta Jimenez and the Spanish Department at Magnolia High School in order to see how Ethnic Studies requirements are met in creative and exciting new ways. For the College of Education, it will especially be important to offer classes on Ethnic Studies so that teachers are better able to meet this requirement in the future.

**Met stated goals:**

This project met the stated goals of

- (i) visiting and observing Berta Jimenez's class and doing an inventory of the teaching and reading materials in Spanish that Magnolia High School
- (ii) aiding Berta Jimenez and the Spanish Department at Magnolia High School to develop a new course called "Spanish Speakers 2: Introduction to Ethnic Studies"
- (iii) visiting Berta Jimenez's class to witness the progress made on curricula for the Ethnic Studies requirement,
- (iv) coordinating the donation of books and teaching materials in Spanish that are grade and level appropriate, as well as high interest,
- (v) taking pre-service teachers to participate in one of Berta Jimenez's classes to witness and participate in a class presentation in Spring 2023