

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my strong disapproval of the proposed ethnic studies curriculum. As reported by the New York Times and the Washington Post, this curriculum should

"critique empire and its relationship to white supremacy, racism, patriarchy, cisheteropatriarchy, capitalism, ableism, anthropocentrism, and other forms of power and oppression at the intersections of our society."

Capitalism -- the economic system practiced in most major countries today and a cornerstone of the amazing growth in human health, education, and prosperity over the last several centuries -- and anthropocentrism -- the idea that human lives, needs, and aspirations should play a central role in decision-making and morality -- are not forms of oppression. To characterize them as such -- and to insinuate that they share moral valence with racism and white supremacy -- is extreme political agitprop. Such indoctrination has no place in California high schools.

I urge you to reject this curriculum.

Sincerely,

Brendon Rhoades
Associate Professor of Mathematics
University of California, San Diego