

From: Sunaina Maira
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2019 11:01 AM
To: Ethnic Studies
Subject: Public comment in support of Arab American Studies in CA curriculum

Hi:

Please see the attached public comment in support of including Arab American studies in the CA ethnic studies curriculum.

I am a professor at UC Davis specializing in Arab American studies and my research and teaching over the past 20 years have focused on Arab American communities, including here in the Bay Area. I am really happy to hear that Arab American studies is being included in the proposal for the curriculum for the reasons I state in the form, attached.

Arab American studies is a rapidly growing field with very important contributions to interdisciplinary ethnic studies scholarship on a range of issues. I am myself the founder of a West Asian American Studies section in the Association of Asian American Studies to support scholarship in this field.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information or resources.

With every best wish,
Sunaina Maira

Public Input Template–2020 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum May 2019 Draft

(Download and use to provide specific recommendations)

Include the chapter of the model curriculum, the page number, and line number(s) to ensure that the California Department of Education and Instructional Quality Commission can reference the content of the document when reviewing your comments. Please email this document as a Word document to ethnicstudies@cde.ca.gov. You may contact Kenneth McDonald, Education Programs Consultant, at kmcdonal@cde.ca.gov with any questions regarding this template or the public input process.

| Chapter of Model Curriculum | Your Name and Affiliation | Comment (include page and line numbers where applicable) |
|---|---|---|
| [Enter the Chapter Number here, or just “General” for a comment that applies to the entire document.] | [Enter Your Name] [Enter the agency, organization, or business that you represent, if applicable.] | <p>[Include the page and line number(s) here—Write your comment here]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I support the objectives listed on page 233 which clearly outline the benefits of teaching the diverse history of Arabs and Arab Americans as a way to challenge xenophobia and discrimination and to create a welcoming environment for marginalized students.</i> |
| General | Sunaina Maira Professor, UC Davis - Asian American Studies | I am an ethnic studies scholar with a specialization in Arab American (and Muslim American) studies. My scholarship focuses on Arab American communities in the Bay Area which are understudied despite their long presence in the region. Arab American students I teach and mentor generally feel invisibilized on campus, and since 9/11 have also experienced discrimination, profiling and surveillance on and off campus. They belong to a group that often falls between the cracks of ethnic studies programs and student affairs categories and so receive little institutional support and few resources, despite their struggles with racism and the censorship of their histories. Given the heightened Islamophobia and Arabophobia stoked by the Trump administration, it is imperative that this knowledge is imparted through the curriculum. It is long overdue! |