

**From:** Anthony Brenner  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2020 6:15 PM  
**To:** Ethnic Studies  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments on ESMC draft

Dear IQC,

I fully recognize and support the need to educate our youth on the history of discrimination and bigotry that has marred our proud history as a country and the value of teaching history from multiple perspectives rather than a single one.

Having said that, I am deeply troubled about the following events that have transpired with the new draft curriculum for Ethnic Studies (ESMC):

1. An initial draft that was clearly antisemitic and anti-Israel in its content
2. A commitment to have an open and transparent process that was clearly violated by the “stroke of midnight” inclusion of Arab-Americans when there had been an agreement that it would only cover four traditional ethnic studies groups – African Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and Latinx Americans.
3. A second draft that remains fundamentally flawed.

Obviously, if Arab-Americans are to be included, there are many other ethnic minority Americans that should be included from a long list of that have suffered bigotry. That list includes Jews who have faced antisemitism in America through the generations, be it historical quotas at colleges, restrictions in co-ops or certain neighborhoods where they were not welcome to love to more blatant actions of discrimination and hatred.

I urge you to incorporate the following into your final curriculum for ESMC so that it is even-handed and fair to all parties.

1. **A lesson plan on Jewish Americans** that recognizes the diversity of the community including Ashkenazi, Sephardic, Mizrahi Jews and Jews of color. Additionally, a lesson plan on Arab Americans should also refer to Jewish Americans of Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) descent.

2. **An accurate definition of [antisemitism](#)**, such as the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's, which the U.S. State Department adopted in 2010.
3. **Inclusion of lessons about [antisemitism](#).**
4. **Transparency and an opportunity for public comment** in all phases of the development of a final ESMC.

Thank you for taking my comments in the spirit in which they are given.

Best

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