

From: Robbi Nester
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2019 2:22 PM
To: Ethnic Studies
Subject: problems with the proposed ethnic studies curricula

General	Robbi Nester	<p>I am writing to comment on the lack of specific and unbiased curricula on Jewish Culture and Studies. Judaism is not just a faith tradition, but a distinct ethnicity, with a history and varied culture of its own. Even more significantly, by including an Arab studies curriculum that is distinctly Anti-Israel and that repeats racist and Anti-Jewish tropes about Jews controlling the media, the proposed curriculum as it stands would tend to promote violence toward a community that is already vulnerable in today's America.</p> <p>I speak as a member of the Jewish community, one who is not personally a Zionist, but who has been endangered by right-wing extremists who desire to silence and threaten Jews and as an educator who believes in tolerance and openness.</p> <p>The curriculum misrepresents Jewish culture and Israel itself, which is quite diverse and composed of many people who oppose the occupation and the founding of settlements.</p> <p>I am a member of an organization that aims to educate the public on racist misperceptions. As such, I object to any material that would enflame this violence. All curricula should be peer-reviewed by ethnic studies experts on all sides of issues of this sort and should be purged of inflammatory and overtly racist statements.</p> <p>I would appreciate if you would take this issue very seriously, and make changes to the proposed curriculum.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Robbi Nester, M.F.A., PhD</p>
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