

From: Tony Seton

Sent: Friday, August 9, 2019 8:09 AM

To: Ethnic Studies

Subject: From reading this article in CALmatters, this draft is embarrassingly disgraceful and morally and intellectually degenerate. Everyone who signed off on it should be replaced.

Ethnic ‘studies’ blowback

A draft of a model ethnic studies [curriculum](#) posted by the California Department of Education is facing fire for leaning too far left and being biased against Jews, CalMatters’ [Elizabeth Castillo reports](#).

The comment period closes on Aug. 15, and it has drawn [hundreds](#), many of them focused on Arab-Israel issues.

The curriculum’s glossary includes definitions of Islamophobia and the movement to boycott, divest from and sanction Israel but not anti-Semitism or the Holocaust.

- **Capitalism is defined:** “Within Ethnic Studies, scholars are often very critical of the system of capitalism as research has shown that Native people and people of color are disproportionately exploited within the system.”

[Cisheteropatriarchy](#) is “a system of power that is based on the dominance of cisheterosexual men.”

Hxrstory, repeated throughout the draft curriculum, “is used to describe history written from a more gender-inclusive perspective. The ‘x’ is used to disrupt the often-rigid gender binarist approach to telling history.”

- **In 2016**, former Assemblyman Luis Alejo, now a Monterey County supervisor, carried [legislation](#) to develop an ethnic studies curriculum. It passed overwhelmingly.
- **This year**, Assemblyman Jose Medina, a Riverside Democrat, is [carrying a bill](#) to mandate ethnic studies as a high school graduation requirement.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond didn’t have a hand in appointing the committee that drafted the proposal. But as the elected head of the Department of Education, Thurmond will be responsible for the final draft.

- **Thurmond spokesman Scott Roark:** “We are recommending edits.”

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