

From: Howard Friedman [mailto:Howard.Friedman@ucr.edu]

Sent: Monday, August 12, 2019 12:47 PM

To: Ethnic Studies

Cc: senator.jones assemblymember.Maienschein

Subject: California Model Ethnic Studies curriculum

See attachment for comment re Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum
May 2019 Draft. With cc to my Assemblyman and State Senator Jones

Howard S. Friedman, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor of the Graduate Division

Department of Psychology

University of California, Riverside

Editor-in-Chief, Encyclopedia of Mental Health (Elsevier)

Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Nonverbal Behavior

Past President, Western Psychological Association

James McKeen Cattell Fellow Award Recipient, Association for Psychological Science:

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<https://www.psychologicalscience.org/members/awards-and-honors/cattell-award/past-award-winners/friedman>

Faculty Research Lecturer 2015 UC Riverside [http://senate.ucr.edu/awards/frl/recipient_2014-15.html]

Elected Fellow, Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research

The Longevity Project: www.howardsfriedman.com/longevityproject/

Profile <https://profiles.ucr.edu/app/home/profile/friedman>

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.

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Chapter of Model Curriculum	Your Name and Affiliation	Comment (include page and line numbers where applicable)
General	Howard S. Friedman Ph.D. <i>University of California (professional opinion that does not necessarily imply endorsement by the UC Regents)</i>	As a long-time Distinguished Professor at the University of California, Riverside, I serve on my department's ethnic diversity committee (to promote inclusion) and I teach courses on the psychology of discrimination. I also supervise graduate students on such topics and have long advised and helped our many diverse undergraduates. Your proposed ethnic studies model curriculum is flawed and counter-productive because it pits ethnic groups against each other. For our California students to grow up living in harmony and cooperation, it is crucial that each student comes to understand the perspective of the relevant sides in all disputes, and to value all religious and ethnic diversity. This needs to start in the public schools. If you take only the perspective of the pro-BDS group regarding Israel and Palestine (as your draft does), you make things worse for everyone. And you push the conflict to continue. In addition, your attempt to push a singular, controversial narrative will backfire and will hurt the push for civil society and for peaceful conflict resolution in California and abroad.
Chapter 2		<i>For example, page 234,</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourages teachers to highlight BDS and a pro-BDS group called Direct Action for Palestine but does not present the opposing facts and discussions.
Chapter 2		<i>Also for example Page 242</i> frames the Palestinian narrative of the 1948 War, with no alternative perspectives, thus making it more difficult to resolve this conflict.

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California Department of Education, June 2019