

From: Cindy Shamban
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 1:26 PM
To: Ethnic Studies
Subject: Comments on the Ethnic Studies Curriculum

To the Ethnic Studies Curriculum Committee:

As an American Jew, I submit the following comments:

Note: I am not able to submit my comments via a word document, or PDF but I have copied it directly into the email.

Sincerely,

Cindy Shamban

**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)
General	Cindy Shamban Berkeley, CA	I support the proposed model Ethnic Studies curriculum for California, including the modules on Arab American history.
		Ethnic Studies was created through the struggle of communities of color to make sure their rich history and perspectives are included in public education. Students and educators across the country have made it clear that Ethnic Studies is a critical component of education for the 21 st century.
		I believe that it is essential that a module on Arab-Americans be included in the Ethnic Studies curriculum. The Arab-American experience, including the impact of Islamophobia, is rarely taught in schools, even in many schools with Ethnic Studies programs. That absence results in Arab-American students feeling both invisible and targeted.
General	Cindy Shamban Berkeley, CA	During the period of public comment on the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum a wide range of Israel-aligned, Zionist organizations have publically attacked the curriculum for being antisemitic and anti-Israel. As usual, they claim to speak for the entire Jewish community when they do not. I am Jewish.
		While I believe that it is very important to teach about antisemitism and about Jewish American history, this content is already present in the California standards. The model Ethnic Studies curriculum includes mention of antisemitism as a distinct form of social oppression related to others such as racism, sexism and anti-Arabism.
		The purpose of the model Ethnic Studies curriculum is to center the history of people of color who have been marginalized or ignored by the current curriculum. Curriculum about Arab-Americans is not antisemitic. Arabs have been coming to the United States since before it was formed as a nation.
		Racism, Islamophobia and antisemitism are on the rise today in the United States. At JVP we recognize that our common enemy is white supremacy and our safety as communities will come through solidarity with each other and with all communities demonized by white supremacy.

