

**From:** [Campus Climate Proposal form](#)  
**To:** [Libby Peterek](#); [Carrie Olson](#)  
**Subject:** New submission from Campus Climate Proposals  
**Date:** Sunday, April 17, 2016 4:33:48 PM

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**First name:**

██████

**Last name:**

██████

**Email address:**

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**What is your affiliation with UW-Madison? For group submissions, please respond for main contact.**

- Student (including undergraduate, graduate, professional)

**Describe the concept. If already in use here or elsewhere, please indicate this.**

Departments across campus should be required to rethink the canons that are taught and read. Too often, the curriculum and research in academia is centered on studying and teaching work by straight, white elite male authors and intellectuals without considering the work of groups that are traditionally marginalized (women, people of color, queer people etc). This agenda creates the idea that the work of people who are not straight, white, elite males is less valuable or less "good" and also that the groups they represent are less intelligent and less worthy of participating in academic settings.

**How would this affect cultural change on campus?**

More ethnic studies requirements is not the answer to improving climate on campus. Students, and Professors, must acknowledge people of marginalized groups and their contribution to intellectual culture and society as a whole if these groups are to be treated with respect on campus.

**For new ideas, how would you propose piloting this idea to see if it would work? If the idea is already in use at UW-Madison, how would you propose expanding or altering this program for greater impact?**

I would suggest implementing surveys to gauge attitudes towards marginalized groups before and after new curriculum is introduced. Once new curriculum is introduced a similar survey would be administered to understand whether there is a shift in attitudes and if incidents of hate and bias are shifting or changing.

**What resources would be needed to implement your suggestion?**

This wouldn't really be a questions of resources so much as effort on the part of departments and professors to expand their canons. Hiring more professors of color or from other marginalized groups would be a way of getting perspectives of people from these groups to create a more culturally competent curriculum and also to implement it.