



# Liberated Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Consortium

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# Arab Americans: Race and Ethnicity

# Land Acknowledgement

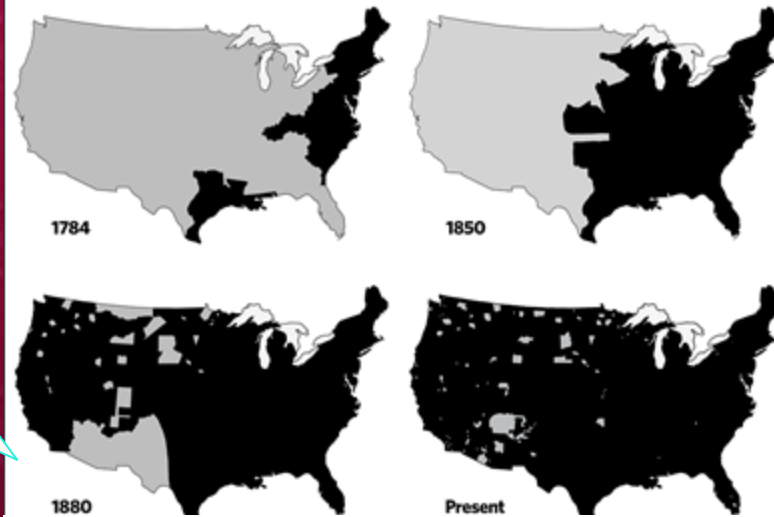
WE ACKNOWLEDGE the land and the people to whom this land belongs. This is the land of the \_\_\_\_\_ people, and they are still here.

WE STAND in solidarity with ALL indigenous people and their right to self-determination, liberation and peace.

WE COMMIT to working toward the healing of generational trauma, theft and dispossession that native and indigenous people have faced and continue to face.

In this light, MY PLEDGE today is to....

Indigenous land loss from 1784-present



Palestine land loss 1917-2016.

# Ancestor Acknowledgement

A professor, author, and professional consultant for films such as *Syriana* and *Three Kings*, Shaheen, with the help of his wife Bernice Shaheen, collected and analyzed materials which depicted Arabs and Muslims as the godless “cultural other.” The Jack G. Shaheen Archive now contains nearly 3,000 motion pictures (spanning from late 19th century silent films to contemporary Hollywood productions) and television programs (including comedies, dramas, cartoons, as well as commercials) on DVDs and VHS tapes.



## **Jack George Shaheen Jr.**

Born: September 21, 1935, Pittsburgh, PA

Died: July 9, 2017, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC.

A large, light blue and white geometric star with intricate patterns, outlined in yellow, positioned in the upper left quadrant.

# Cultural Energizer

A pink flower with a blue center, located on the left side of the slide.

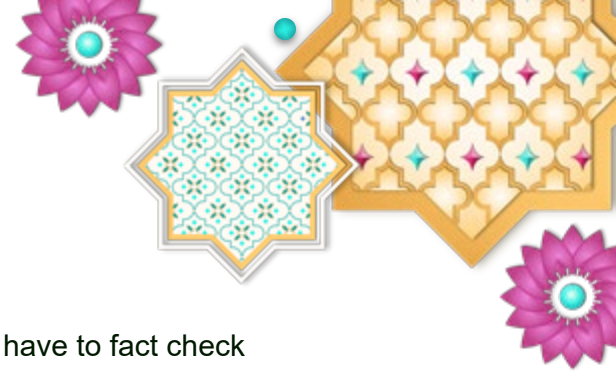
When have you felt included/excluded  
in school and/or society?

# Inclusion & Exclusion - Arab Youth Speak

Identify when and how these students felt included/excluded in school and/or society.

“Throughout my high school education there was barely a week in which we learned Arab history in World Studies, and what we did learn was incredibly Eurocentric. I know there’s more to us, and there are so many positive things we added to modern society around the world.”





# Inclusion & Exclusion

“I have been defending my people and culture since I started school. I find that I always have to fact check my teachers, especially my history teachers.”

“I have been made fun of for being Arab and Muslim. I have been called a terrorist, a camel rider, and oppressed.”

“Students would drop pencils near us and yell “boom it's a bomb!” “My history teacher repeatedly asked if he could call me “Middle East” because my name is too hard to pronounce.”

“Teachers expect me to comment when they teach about Arabs and Muslims.”

“I am always dismissed as the angry Middle Eastern kid who is overly emotional when it comes to discussing issues that relate to me.”

“When the New Zealand shooting happened, my family was scared to go to the masjid. We were worried racists would target mosques.”


Turath Report, 2020

# Inclusion & Exclusion

“I think representation is really important. It sucks to not see ourselves in history books. We get a few pages while other communities get whole sections. When they do show our history, it’s not right. We’re misrepresented.”



Neda



*There were many occasions where students would drop pencils and yell “there’s a bomb” and other occasions where they would say “Allahu Akbar” in an islamophobic way.*

As an Arab student I have felt discriminated against multiple times. In seventh grade we learned about Islam. There were many occasions where students would drop pencils and yell “there’s a bomb” and other occasions where they would say “Allahu Akbar” in an islamophobic way. Now as a high school student, there are still people who yell “Allahu Akbar” around me. I speak out and many other students join me. These other students make me feel supported on campus, unlike the educators.



# Critical Concepts

Identity

Islamophobia

Muslim Ban

Othering

# Our identities can be influenced by our/other histories...



What did the poet share about influences on her and her family member's identities - and others?

Suheir Hammad,  
First Reading Since...



# Our identities are bound to our/other histories...

“human beings make their own history but not under conditions of their own choosing. Our identities (i.e. our stories) are historical - political constructs. But this does not make the “effective history” that constitutes our being something we use and put away. We live, as human beings, in and as the story/identity that we are.”

Tseney Serequeberhan



# Being Othered!

“...Sometimes I put ‘other’ but what is ‘other’? ‘Other’ could be anything. You feel like you are inferior, you know. Like the minority of the minorities. We’re not defined...Officially we are white but we’re not white. Somebody can say, ‘I don’t have to hire you because you are white and I have a lot of white people here.’ But you’re not white! (Palestinian-born male)



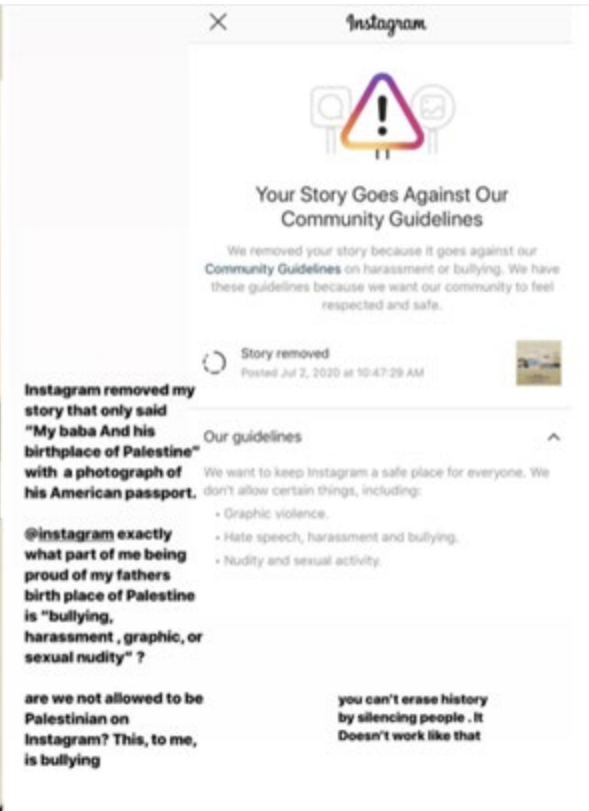
# Arab American Identity

1. How can Arab Americans' identity be influenced by the way they are "classified"?
2. What happens when others try to influence how Arab Americans exert their identities?
3. What happens when Arab Americans exert their own identities?





# Gigi Hadid



Go to the Source: [HERE](#) for the full story



# Rami Malek



“I am the son of immigrants from Egypt,” “I think about what it would have been like to tell little bubba Rami that one day this might happen to him ... And I think his curly-haired little mind would be blown. He was struggling with his identity, trying to figure himself out ... I’m a first generation American. This is something I will treasure for the rest of my life” [Vogue Article](#)



# Racialization of Arab Americans - “Not Quite White”



## Oday Aboushi

Football offensive guard

Oday Aboushi is an American football offensive guard for the Detroit Lions of the National Football League. He played college football for the University of Virginia and was selected by the New York Jets in the fifth round of the 2013 NFL Draft. [Wikipedia](#)

**Born:** June 5, 1991 (age 29 years), Brooklyn, New York, NY

**Nationality:** American

**Height:** 6' 5"

**Current team:** [Detroit Lions](#) (#76 / Guard)

**Siblings:** [Salha Aboushi](#), [Tahanie Aboushi](#), [Aymen Aboushi](#), [MORE](#)

**Education:** [Xaverian High School](#), [University of Virginia](#)



Oday Aboushi arrives for the first day of 2019 Detroit Lions Training Camp presented by Rocket Mortgage at the team's training facility on Wednesday, July 24, 2019 in Allen Park, Mich. (Detroit Lions via AP) Detroit Lions, AP

Aboushi is the first Palestinian-American player to get drafted and stick with the team that drafted him. He is one of a handful of players with Palestinian roots to ever play in the league.

“For Muslims,” Tahanie said, “and for Palestinians in particular. Him playing in the NFL is an equalizer. It bridges a lot of gaps for what others see in us, and for Palestinian-American boys to see what’s possible.” [Source](#)



## Rep. Ilhan Omar says...

Rep. Ilhan Omar, D -Minn., who is Muslim, reflected on 9/11 and the discrimination that followed in an interview with ABC News. "As Americans, as people who are living here, we were also attacked," she said. "This is our community, this is our country, and there were Muslims who lost their lives in those towers, who were Muslim firefighters, who lost their lives."

She added, "There is a desire by many to use our faith and our identity as a weapon against us and to 'other' us. That has been really harmful in so many ways."



# Islamophobia - Racialization based on Religion

Definition:

**Islamophobia** is an extreme fear of and hostility toward Islam and Muslims. It often leads to hate speech and hate crimes, social and political discrimination, can be used to rationalize policies such as mass surveillance, incarceration, and disenfranchisement, and can influence domestic and foreign policy.

(Source: <https://bridge.georgetown.edu/about-us/what-is-islamophobia/>)

- While Islamophobia has a long history in the United States, the events of September 11th brought it front and center, and it has never went away.



# Hate Crimes Against Muslims

Hate crimes against Muslims rose 101% from 2000 to 2016, according to the FBI marking some of the highest numbers of Islamophobic hate crimes ever in the U.S.

But even as the country moved further from the attacks and the Muslim American population in the country grew, discrimination against this community has NOT decreased. (Pew Research Center reports)

Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/20-years-911-islamophobia-continues-haunt-muslims/story?id=79732049>





A small group attend an "anti-Islam" rally organized by "ACT for America," known for its racist and anti-Islamic notions, in Foley Square in Manhattan, New York, June 10, 2017. Meanwhile, another group, more crowded and consisting anti-Trump and Muslim supporters, staged a simultaneous protest to condemn the "anti-Islam" rally.

Anadolu Agency via Getty Images, FILE



## Muslim Ban ... Executive Order 13780 (March 6, 2017)

In December 2015, Trump called for a “total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States” in a campaign press conference, citing a deeply flawed poll commissioned by the anti-Muslim organization Center for Security Policy (CSP). Later in the campaign, Trump called for an immigration halt from “the terror states” and “countries compromised by terrorism”—a position he sees as an “expansion” from his initial Muslim Ban. Trump has also called for an ideological test of immigrants. In October 2016, he explained that the original “Muslim ban is something that in some form has morphed into extreme vetting from certain areas of the world.”

During his campaign, Trump proposed a variety of surveillance programs on Muslims in America, suggested that law enforcement close mosques, and advocated a Muslim registry or database as a means to combat terrorism.

- ❑ On January 20, 2021 President Joe Biden revoked Executive Order 13780

## Muslim Ban: Intent & Impact (Video 1)

What is happening in this example? How are Arabs and/or Muslims being included or excluded? How do you think this influences their identities? What intersections can you see with other communities?



## Muslim Ban: Intent & Impact (Video 2)



What is happening in this example? How are Arabs and/or Muslims being included or excluded? How do you think this influences their identities? What intersections can you see with other communities?



# Critical Cultural Production - What has influenced your identity?

Choose a format to answer the question":  
*your identity?*

*What has influenced*

- Song - written or performed (or both)
- Poem, spoken word (written or performed)
- Art Piece - collage, mural etc.
- Letter, Speech
- Instagram Post
- TikTok video





# Conclusive Dialogue

“When you talk to people, you get to know them . W hen you don ’t talk to them , you don ’t get to know them , and the thing that you don ’t know strikes with you fear.”

- Native American actor Chief Dan George

