



# The Portland Observer

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Committed to Cultural Diversity

# Ex Cop found Guilty

## Verdict sets off jubilation around city

Former Minneapolis Officer Derek Chauvin was convicted Tuesday of murder and manslaughter for pinning George Floyd to the pavement with his knee on the Black man's neck in a case that touched off worldwide protests, violence and a furious reexamination of racism and policing in the U.S.

Chauvin, 45, could be sent to prison for decades.

The verdict set off jubilation around the Minneapolis. People instantly flooded the surrounding streets downtown, running through traffic with banners. Cars blared their horns. Floyd family members who had gathered at a Minneapolis conference room could be heard cheering.

The jury of six white people and six

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People in Minneapolis cheer Tuesday after a guilty verdict was announced at the trial of former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin for the 2020 death of George Floyd.

# PSU Proposes Race Studies Mandate

## 'This is something that is needed,' college professor says

BY BEVERLY CORBELL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Advancing the understanding of hate and committing a campus to racial justice progress is being put to the test at Portland State University.

A proposal coming before the PSU Faculty Senate in early May would require all undergraduate students to complete courses in race and ethnic studies.

"This is something that is needed," Ethan Johnson, chair of PSU's Black Studies department told the Portland Observer. "The university has touted itself as the most diverse university in Oregon, and as one of the largest institutions of higher learning in Portland; it should lead in that area."

Johnson said the proposal would require all undergraduate students to take two courses in race and ethnic studies and set up a committee to administer the curriculum. If passed, the added classes would also build support for the creation of conditions for a master's degree program in the PSU School of Gender, Race and Nations.

"We have a master's certificate, but not a master's program," he said.

Johnson says a vote for the proposal will help fulfill a Senate resolution to promote diversity on campus, not only by expanding race and ethnic studies, but also gender and sexuality studies.

The idea behind the new courses requirement originated with the School of Gender, Race and Nations in response to the Black Lives Matter movement, and suggestions for curriculum that can enrich the students' learning experiences, Johnson said.

But the effects of broadening the access



Ethan Johnson

to racial and gender studies can be even broader, according to experts.

California Board of Education President Linda Darling-Hammond, who led President Biden's education transition

team, was recently quoted in the New York Times as saying ethnic studies is a reminder that education is an essential strategy for combating hate.

"We are reminded daily that racism is not only a legacy of the past but a clear and present danger," she said in the March 31 article. "We must understand this history if we are to finally end it."

Johnson hopes Portland State will follow this national trend, as the California state university system passed these requirements in 2016 and Oregon recently passed a K-12 requirement for all students to take race and ethnic studies throughout their studies.

According to the National Education Association, early efforts a decade ago around ethnic studies were often met with opposition, but have gained traction in recent years, and following California and

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