

By using this site, you agree to our [Privacy Policy](#) and our [Terms of Use](#).

[Login](#) [Watch TV](#)

EDUCATION · Published 1 day ago

Nevada charter school's students were instructed to link aspects of their identity with oppression: lawsuit

"We have a lot of unlearning to do," one slide read.

By [Sam Dorman](#) | Fox News



Tucker: Critical race theory is a lie from start to finish

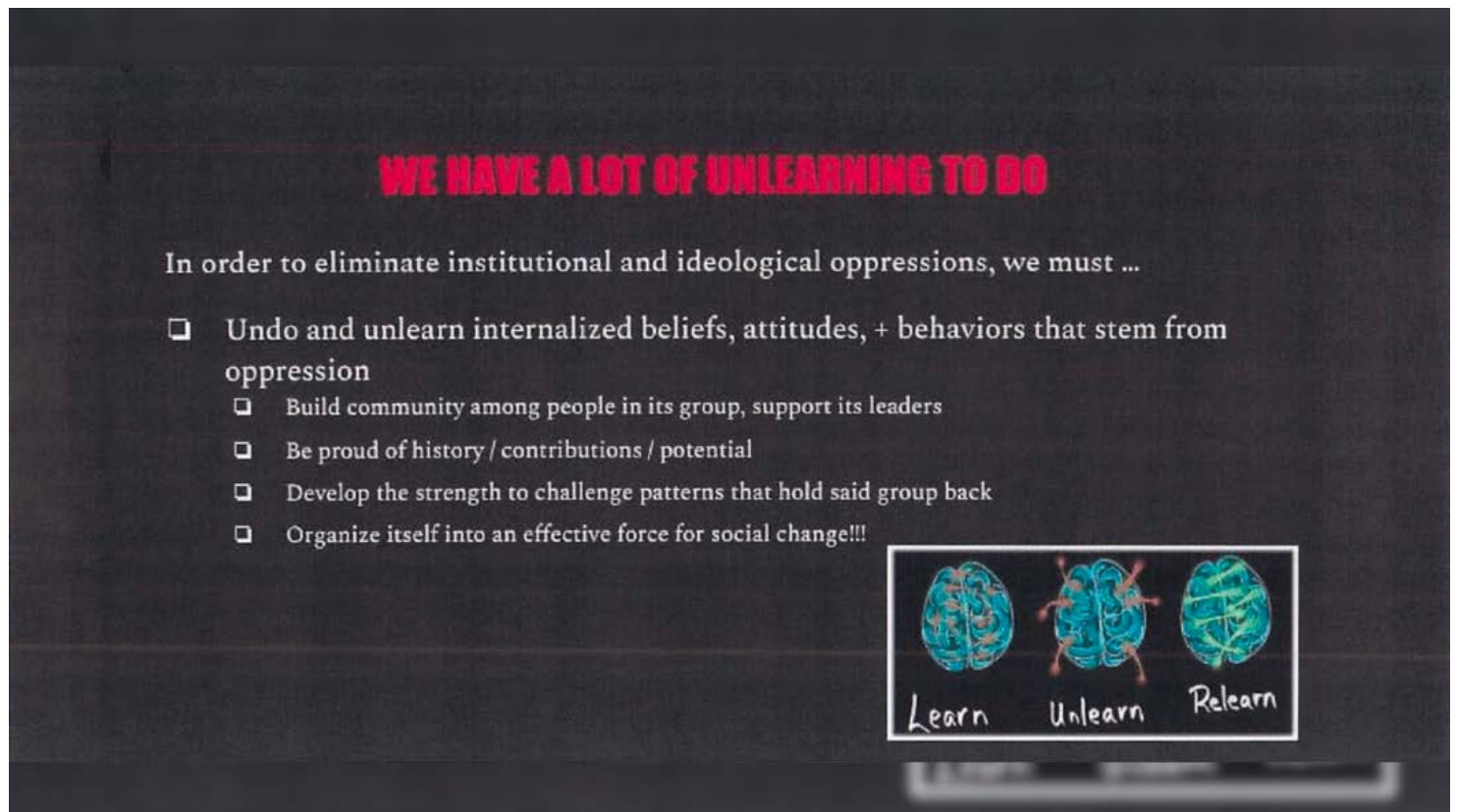
Critical race theory is the latest attempt by the most privileged people in our society to displace the blame for their mismanagement of the country onto the people below them.

A publicly funded charter [school](#) in [Nevada](#) created a hostile environment for students by

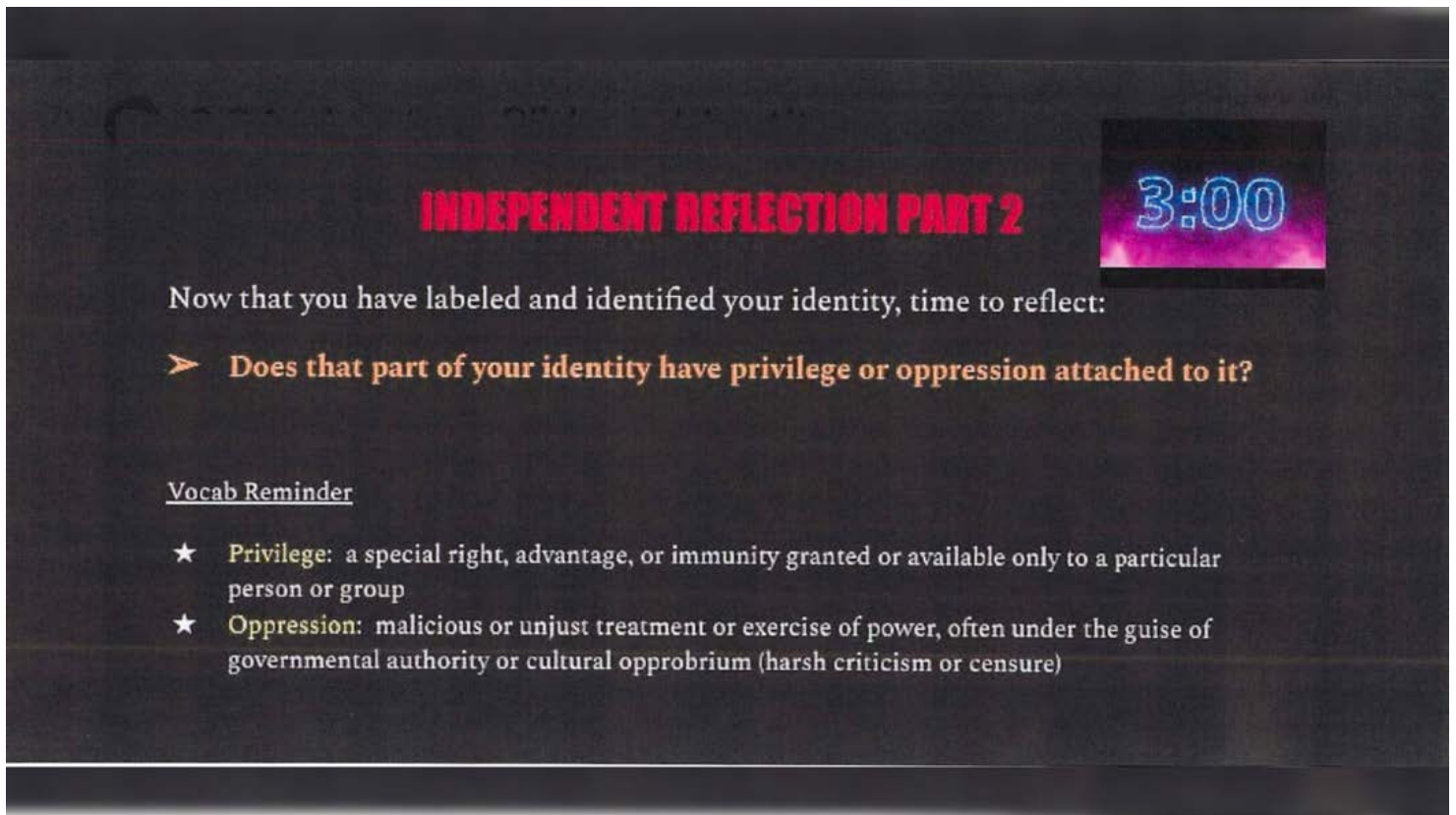
instructing them to associate aspects of their identity with oppression, a new [lawsuit](#) alleges.

The suit was filed Tuesday by a high school senior at Democracy Prep at the Agassi campus in Las Vegas, who claims he was forced to take the course -- titled "Sociology of Change" -- in order to graduate.

William Clark, whose mother is Black and deceased father was White, claims he felt discriminated against and harassed by various aspects of the course -- including an alleged assertion that by not identifying with an oppressive group, students were exercising their privilege or underscoring their status as an oppressor.



Democracy Prep class slide telling students they should unlearn and challenge beliefs that stem from oppression.



Democracy Prep class slide encouraging students to identify parts of their identity attached to privilege or oppression.

Clark and his mother, Gabrielle, are seeking damages for severe mental and emotional distress, as well as allegedly "permanent" damages to his academic career.

Rather than allowing William Clark to avoid the class or replace it with other alternatives, the school insisted he complete it, according to the complaint.


VIRGINIA COUNTY SPENDS NEARLY \$500G ON RACE PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS

One of the instructional slides included in the complaint shows lists dominant groups in American culture as "white," "male," "middle/upper class," "heterosexual," and "protestant/Christian," while "everyone else" is classified as "submissive."

Kathryn Bass, Clark's teacher who is named as a defendant in the suit, similarly associates elements of her own identity -- like "White, Irish, American citizen" -- with "privilege." Others like "female" and "working class" are associated with an "oppressive" label. Meanwhile, she says she's "both privilege and oppressive" in her identifying as "bisexual" and having a mental health disability.

Ms. Bass' Identities

- **Race / ethnicity / nationality:** White, Irish, American citizen
 - Privilege
- **Gender:** Female
 - Oppressive
- **Socioeconomic status:** Working class
 - Oppressive
- **Sexual Orientation:** Bisexual
 - Both Privilege and Oppressive
- **Disabilities:** Mental Health*
 - Both Privilege and Oppressive
- **Religion:** Agnostic
 - Oppressive
- **Age:** 22
 - Both Privilege and Oppressive
- **Language:** English
 - Privilege



Democracy Prep class slide identifying a teacher, Kathryn Bass, as oppressive and privileged according to aspects of her identity.

She also allegedly addressed students as "social justice warriors," taught students that "[B]lack prejudice does not affect the rights of white people," and used a meme to argue "reverse racism doesn't exist."



Meme featured in Democracy Prep class instructional material

A screenshot of a presentation slide titled "SIDE-ISL NOTE ...". On the left, there is a small version of the SpongeBob meme. Below it, the text reads "REVERSE RACISM IS NOT REAL!". Further down, a box contains the text "BLACK PREJUDICE DOES NOT AFFECT THE RIGHTS OF WHITE PEOPLE." with a small image of a person at the bottom. To the right of the meme, a list of bullet points is displayed:

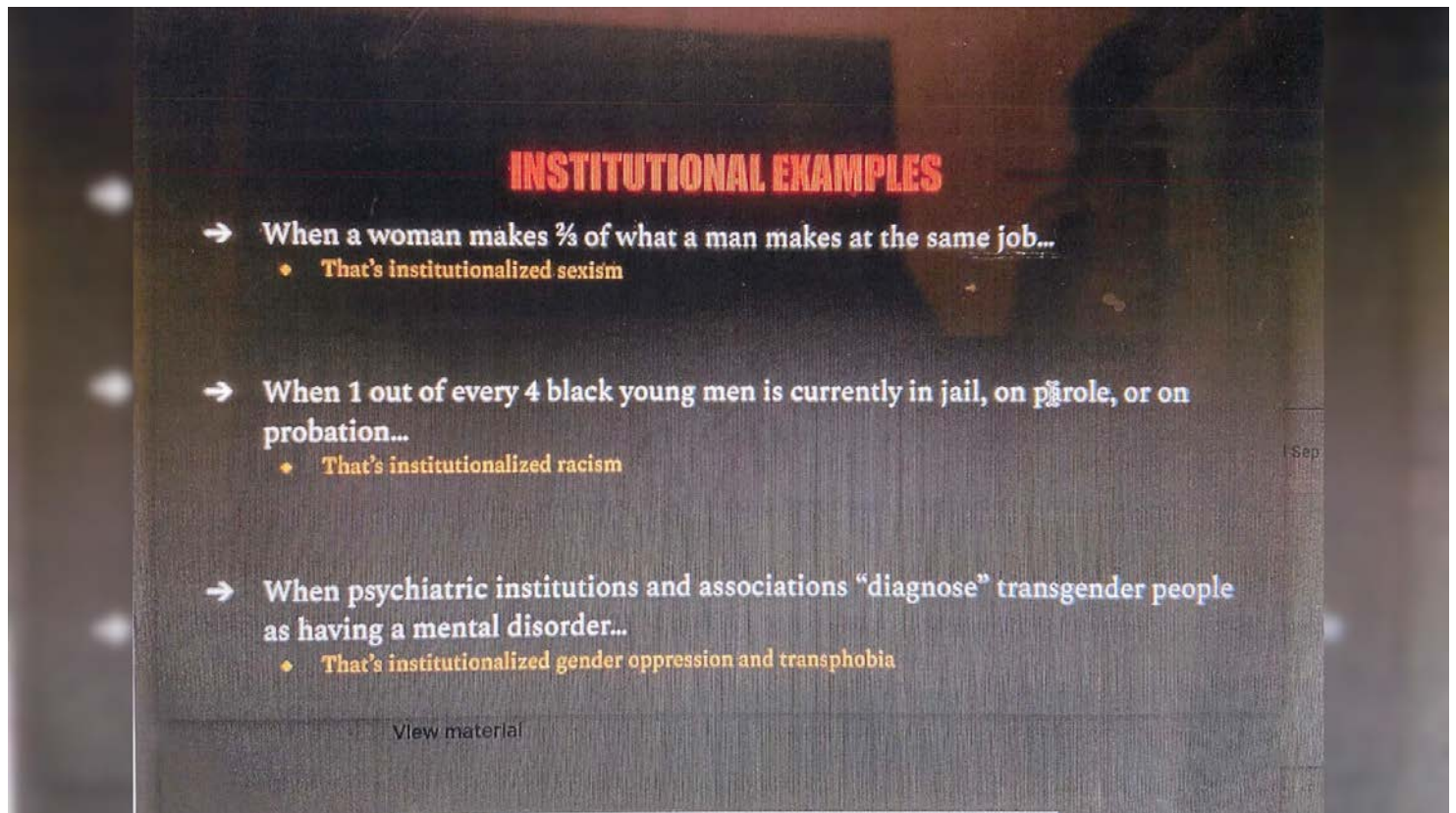
- Oppressive attitudes and behaviors are backed up by institutional arrangements
- Sure, people of color CAN have prejudices against white people
- HOWEVER
- These prejudices are severely punished
 - Police, courts, and or gangs of white people will come crashing down on those who were prejudice against white people
 - The reverse is not the same
- Therefore, the oppressed groups do not have the power to enforce prejudices, unlike the dominant group, who does have the power

The slide is part of a presentation, as indicated by the "Page 15 / 22" text at the bottom.

Democracy Prep class instructional material claiming, among other things, that reverse racism doesn't exist.

The meme, which features cartoon character Spongebob Squarepants and a rainbow, is typically used online to convey ideas in a condescending manner.

Clark and others in his class allegedly objected when they were taught those ideas, according to the complaint. The complaint, which was filed in a Nevada district court, claims that Bass "terminated class discussion" amid in response to Clark's claim that "everyone can be racist" and "that prejudice anywhere from anyone can harm others."



Democracy Prep class slide purporting to show examples of institutional oppression.

PRESIDENT TRUMP INSTALLS COMMISSION TO PROMOTE 'PATRIOTIC EDUCATION,' COUNTER 'RADICAL' VIEWS OF US HISTORY

"For this protected speech and others like it, Defendant Kathryn Bass terminated class discussion immediately with the intent to chill and discourage future objections to Defendants' sponsored politicized ideology," the complaint reads. It also points out that although the school has encouraged other forms of dissent, like "occupying a cafeteria," the same privilege seemed to not extend to Clark.

Besides Bass, the lawsuit names other higher-level officials, whom they claim were involved in pushing the curriculum onto students.

Clark's mother, Gabrielle, told Fox News that the instruction her son received created psychological distress for both of them. "I was really worried about his physical safety," she said.

Her son is "generally regarded as [W]hite by his peers," according to the complaint, and has "green eyes and blondish hair."

"Defendants, who include a state funded and sponsored charter school, teachers and senior administrators, have deliberately created a hostile educational environment for Plaintiff William Clark, who, unlike his classmates appears to be and is regarded by his peers as white," the complaint reads. "Defendants thus discriminated on the basis of race and color, in addition to sex, gender and religion, in violation of Title VI and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972."

HIGHER EDUCATION GROUPS ASK BIDEN TO REVERSE TRUMP ORDERS ON TITLE IX REFORM, CRITICAL RACE THEORY

Part of the suit entails Gabrielle Clark's claim that the instruction violated her rights as a parent and contradicted ideas she conveyed to her son about Christianity and family.

A slide titled "Institutions + Oppression," lists certain institutions with apparent instruction about how they oppress others. Under "Family," the slide reads "reinforce racist/homophobic prejudices." The description for "religion" similarly reads "homophobic prejudices" and "right versus wrong judgement."

Gabrielle Clark told Fox News: "I tried to instill in all of my children that you need to respect everyone and treat everyone the same ... and do what Martin Luther King said. You don't judge people on the color of their skin. You judge them on the content of their character."

A spokesperson for Democracy Prep said the school hadn't been served with the lawsuit.

JOSH HAWLEY CALLS ON CONGRESS TO INVESTIGATE 'CRITICAL RACE THEORY' TRAINING SCANDAL AFTER TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ORDER

Tuesday's was just the latest in a series of complaints raised throughout the country in which schools or government institutions came under fire for promoting ideas generally associated

with "critical race theory." The Clarks', however, appear to have brought the first and well-publicized suit of its nature.

Leaked, racialized material previously streamed out of federal agencies, prompting the Trump administration to issue an executive order and ban trainings involving certain ideas about race and identity. Just before the election, Trump installed a commission he said was designed to promote "patriotic education."

M.E. Hart, an attorney who has conducted diversity training sessions for businesses and the federal government, told [The Washington Post](#) that it can improve morale, cooperation and efficiency.

"If we are going to live up to this nation's promise -- 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal' -- we have to see each other as human beings, and we have to do whatever it takes, including taking whatever classes make that possible," Hart told the Post. "These classes have been very powerful in allowing people to do that, and we need them more than ever. There's danger here."

But some, like the president, have argued that ideas like these are actually divisive by conflating individuals with the institutions or groups to which they belong.

The Clarks' lawsuit includes a claim that the school infringed on his privacy by requiring him to fill out a form identifying himself with certain identity categories.

[CLICK HERE TO GET THE FOX NEWS APP](#)

Bass' course appeared to extend beyond lessons about individual identity and encouraged students to read facts through an ideological lens. One of the slides, labeled "Institutional Examples," makes statements like "when a woman makes 2/3 of what a man makes at the same job... that's institutionalized sexism."

Another reads: "When psychiatric institutions and associations 'diagnose' transgender people as having a mental disorder... That's institutionalized gender oppression and transphobia."

A copy of the lawsuit was posted to [Schoolhouserights.org](#).

Fox News' Adam Shaw contributed to this report.

Sam Dorman is a reporter with Fox News. Follow him on Twitter @DormanInDC or at facebook.com/SamDormanFoxNews



[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

Coronavirus

U.S.

Crime

Military

Education

Terror

Immigration

Economy

Personal Freedoms

Fox News Investigates

World

U.N.

Conflicts

Terrorism

Disasters

Global Economy

Environment

Religion

Scandals

Opinion

Politics

Executive

Senate

House

Judiciary

Foreign Policy

Polls

Elections

Entertainment

Celebrity News

Movies

TV News

Music News

Style News

Entertainment Video

Business

Personal Finance
Economy
Markets
Watchlist
Lifestyle
Real Estate
Tech

Lifestyle

Food + Drink
Cars + Trucks
Travel + Outdoors
House + Home
Fitness + Well-being
Style + Beauty
Family
Faith

Science

Archaeology
Air & Space
Planet Earth
Wild Nature
Natural Science
Dinosaurs

Tech

Security
Innovation
Drones
Computers
Video Games
Military Tech

Health

Coronavirus
Healthy Living
Medical Research
Mental Health
Cancer
Heart Health
Children's Health

TV

Shows
Personalities
Watch Live
Full Episodes
Show Clips
News Clips

About

[Contact Us](#)
[Careers](#)
[Fox Around the World](#)
[Advertise With Us](#)
[Media Relations](#)
[Corporate Information](#)
[Compliance](#)
[Supplier Diversity](#)

Other

[Fox Nation](#)
[Fox News Shop](#)
[Fox News Go](#)
[Fox News Radio](#)
[Newsletters](#)
[Alerts](#)
[Podcasts](#)
[Apps & Products](#)

[New Terms of Use](#) [Updated Privacy Policy](#) [Do Not Sell my Personal Information](#) [Closed Captioning Policy](#)
[Help](#) [Contact Us](#) [Accessibility Statement](#)

This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. ©2020 FOX News Network, LLC. All rights reserved. Quotes displayed in real-time or delayed by at least 15 minutes. Market data provided by Factset. Powered and implemented by FactSet Digital Solutions. Legal Statement. Mutual Fund and ETF data provided by Refinitiv Lipper.