

A Statement on the Murder of George Floyd by Members of the Humanities and Cultural Studies Department

The undersigned members of the Humanities and Cultural Studies Department express our strong support for those who are protesting in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd. We are saddened and outraged by the ongoing scourge of systemic racism within the criminal justice system and in our society, and we believe immediate and substantive reform to policing practices and to the larger criminal justice system are urgently needed. We categorically oppose any militarized response to American citizens exercising their First Amendment rights to free speech and peaceable assembly. We stand with those seeking justice for George Floyd, Ahmaud Aubrey, Breonna Taylor, and the many others victimized by systemic racism. We believe that we all have an important role to play in actively opposing racism, and as educators we are obligated to use our voices to actively work to realize a more perfect union. As humanities scholars, we recognize that art, media, and other forms of cultural expression can both perpetuate inequity and violence and also provide powerful responses to violence by giving voice to trauma, promoting justice and healing, and uniting communities in times of struggle. We stand with communities of color and with all who bravely resist injustice.

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