

### Standing in silence

Pardon me for being "politically incorrect," but why don't those frustrated University of Texas English faculty who've so far failed to push through their freshman English class teaching "multiculturalism" and "diversity" try their luck in the political science or sociology departments? I thought the purpose of the freshman English course was to teach reading and writing skills —not civil rights, social reform and ethnic history.

Of course, they'd have to meet rigorous academic standards if they taught in those other departments. Such standards have been declining in the UT English department for several years, attracting much negative attention in the national press as a direct result of efforts to promote this partic-

ular course as an English course.

People who have opposed teaching this material in the guise of an English course have been portrayed as racists, antifeminists and worse. Many who supported the English course described themselves as "post-Marxists."

Labels aside, nobody, regardless of his race, sex or political views, should expect a university to compromise its fundamental duty to facilitate a free exchange of ideas and to protect intellectual freedom by allowing people with a political or social ax to grind, to spread their propaganda through a tax-supported curriculum.

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