

**From:** William Boernke [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 8, 2021 3:28 PM  
**To:** James Pillen  
**Subject:** Critical Race Theory

Non-NU Email

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Dear Regent Pillen:

"I believe critical race theory is factually and morally wrong," Pillen said Thursday. ("Lincoln Journal Star).

In ancient Athens, Socrates was forced to drink hemlock because people believed he corrupted the youth.

What you believe is irrelevant to what is should be taught in schools. 100 years ago, people thought Darwin should not be taught in public schools and states had laws forbidding the teaching of Darwin. Do you want to take us back to those bad old days?

Academic freedom protects faculty from the beliefs of the public. If the Board of Regents were to go on record stating that critical race theory should not be taught, this would violate the academic freedom of instructors who think it is essential that ideas some people do not like be taught in public schools.

Your position is the same position taken by Pope Pius IX concerning Enlightenment moral philosophers who used reason to make moral judgments instead of deferring to the authority of the Bible.

Pope Pius IX wrote "The Syllabus of Errors" condemning Enlightenment criticism of the Church. He made the same mistake the Church made when it called Galileo a heretic for teaching the sun moves in the sky.

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