

EDUC 2120: Exploring Socio-Cultural Perspectives on Diversity

Purpose of the Course:

The purpose of this course is to explore issues of diversity (the meaning of difference) that influence teaching, learning, and educational opportunities for disenfranchised cultural groups. In particular, we will be exploring issues of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, immigrant status, exceptionality, language, and religion. Part of our exploration of these issues involves seeing them in relation to the law, language and popular culture.

However, it is not simply exploration that we are trying to achieve. Instead, we are attempting to make a difference at the level of practice. To do so, we will consider how your individual views on diversity influence what you do in the classroom, how your teaching practice creates possibilities to further opportunities for disenfranchised groups, and finally how the issues discussed in class can expand your understanding of diversity and the possibilities for change.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the personal and social implications of knowing about different groups' experiences in society and education
- Be able to relate the ideas of multicultural education to your specific discipline
- Develop an awareness of diverse experiences in schools and society
- Develop a personal vocabulary and voice for discussing and writing about difference
- Demonstrate a respect for beliefs different from your own

Anticipated Calendar & Topic Schedule:

Revisions may be made as necessary to the class calendar. **Readings and assignments should be completed BEFORE attending the class where they are listed.** Videos listed will be watched in class unless otherwise directed.

Topic	Readings & Assignments
Introduction to Course	
Multiculturalism	'Defining Multicultural Education for School Reform'
Multiculturalism	'Multiculturalism: Battleground or Meeting Ground?' & 'Multiculturalism: E Pluribus Plures'
Multiculturalism	http://rttp.ctl.uga.edu/openeduc/dev/module/module-1-multiculturalism/
Multiculturalism	TIB* - "Why I Close My Restaurant", "A Duty to Family, Heritage, & Country"
Race & Ethnicity	http://rttp.ctl.uga.edu/openeduc/dev/module/module-2-race-ethnicity/
Race & Ethnicity	Audio Assignment: This American Life Podcast, "512: House Rules"***
Race & Ethnicity	'Defining Racism', 'White Privilege', TIB - "I am a Racist and So Are You"
Race & Ethnicity	
Class & Socioeconomic Status	Video - 'Park Avenue: Money, Power, & the American Dream' http://rttp.ctl.uga.edu/openeduc/dev/module/module-3-class-socioeconomic-status/
Class & Socioeconomic Status	'Concerted Cultivation and the Accomplishment of Natural Growth'
Class & Socioeconomic Status	'The High Cost of Poverty', Video - 'Children of the Mountains'
Class & Socioeconomic Status	'At the Edge of Poverty'
Midterm Exam	
Gender	http://rttp.ctl.uga.edu/openeduc/dev/module/module-4-gender-sexual-identity/
Gender	'A Labor Market Punishing to Mothers', 'A Motherhood Penalty vs. a Fatherhood Bonus'
Sexual Identity	Guest Speakers: Lambda Alliance
Sexual Identity	'Generation LGBTQIA'
Exceptionality	'Disproportionate Representation of African American Students in Special Education' http://rttp.ctl.uga.edu/openeduc/dev/module/module-5-special-needs/

Exceptionality	Video – ‘Temple Grandin’
Exceptionality	Video – ‘Temple Grandin’, TIB – “Seeing in Beautiful, Precise Pictures”
Language	‘What Should Teachers Do?’ ‘In Arizona, Complaints of an Accent’ http://rttp.ctl.uga.edu/openeduc/dev/module/module-6-language-immigration-and-geography/
Language	Video – ‘Precious Knowledge’
Language/Geography	‘Pedagogy of the Oppressed – Chapter 2’
Language/Geography	‘Let Them In’, ‘My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant’
Geography	
Religion	http://rttp.ctl.uga.edu/openeduc/dev/module/module-7-religion/
Religion	‘Ramadan Poses Challenges’
Education that is Multicultural	http://rttp.ctl.uga.edu/openeduc/dev/module/module-7-conclusions/
Final Exam	

*TIB stands for *This I Believe* and references specific essays that have been aired as a part of the NPR program. You may search for these by name as they are listed in the syllabus at <http://thisibelieve.org/search/>. The website includes audio of the author reading the essay, as well as a transcript. Feel free to listen or read, just be sure to have done so prior to the class meeting where it is listed.

**To access this podcast, you can go to <http://thisamericanlife.org> and then use the search bar to search for “House Rules”. Please make sure you have listened to this podcast prior to attending class.