PDI

Professional Development Institute

Flex Course Syllabus

Embracing Diversity and Equity through Culturally Responsive Teaching (K-12)

PDI Course Number: 12T02

UCSD Course Number: EDUC40247

If you would like information about receiving post-baccalaureate (graduate) credit for completing this course, please click here.

Course Timeline

Participants have one year to complete the course. Participants must spend a minimum of three weeks in this course.

Course Description

Are you curious as to what culturally responsive teaching is and how exactly it relates to the classroom? Perhaps you are concerned because your diverse students just don't seem to be "getting it," no matter what you try. This online course is designed for K-12 teachers who are looking to dig deeper into their own teaching practices and explore strategies and initiatives for incorporating students' cultural backgrounds and experiences so that the focus is on the whole child/student. This course begins by discussing the history of marginalization and how it has impacted both teaching and learning within the classroom. The foundations of culturally responsive teaching are addressed, as well as strategies for helping students who have suffered from trauma. Teachers will learn how to create a culturally inviting classroom environment, complete with specific strategies for creating and sustaining culturally relevant relationships, a cornerstone of culturally responsive teaching. Teachers will also learn how to help students build confidence and competence through culturally inspiring teaching practices which are designed to nurture the whole student, including his/her social and emotional needs. Additional topics include addressing individual differences and similarities by giving students voice and choice, as well as how to manage the classroom in a culturally responsive and inclusive manner. Specific culturally-responsive classroom management strategies will also be shared so teachers can be

more effective working with students from diverse populations. Resources for choosing excellent examples of multi-cultural literature will also be shared. By the end of this course, teachers will feel more confident implementing the principles of culturally responsive teaching into their classrooms.

Educational Outcomes

1. Teachers will learn about the history of marginalization and how it has impacted both teaching and learning within the classroom.
2. Teachers will learn about the principles of culturally responsive teaching.
3. Teachers will understand the difference between oral and written culture.
4. Teachers will understand how to address their own implicit biases.
5. Teachers will understand the basic fundamentals of trauma.
6. Teachers will learn about how adverse childhood experiences affect students and what they can do in their classrooms to decrease their effects.
7. Teachers will learn how to increase students' assets, so that they are more resilient to hardships.
8. Teachers will learn about the connection between motivation and student effort.
9. Teachers will learn specific strategies and interventions to help students as they work their way through the three tiers of multi-tiered support systems.
10. Teachers will learn specific strategies for helping students who have experienced trauma.
11. Teachers will learn about social justice and how it impacts the road to social equality.
12. Teachers will learn how to break down the barriers of stereotypes and oppression through a variety of specific classroom activities.
13. Teachers will understand the role that culture plays in communication and education, including the profound effect that cultural differences play in terms of communication.
14. Teachers will learn how to engage students in true and deep learning through the three R's — rigor, relevance, and relationships.
15. Teachers will learn strategies for creating and sustaining culturally relevant relationships, a cornerstone of culturally responsive teaching.
16. Teachers will learn how to address diversity through a whole student approach to learning.
17. Teachers will understand how social and emotional learning is intricately related to culturally responsive teaching practices.
18. Teachers will learn strategies for helping students build their confidence and competence.
19. Teachers will learn about the five essential elements that must be present in a classroom in order to motivate students to learn using culturally responsive teaching practices.
20. Teachers will understand the importance of cultural diversity and the role that it plays in the classroom.
21. Teachers will understand the importance of embracing both their students' similarities and differences in order to support cultural diversity.
22. Teachers will be introduced to a variety of activities to introduce the concept of diversity into their classrooms.
23. Teachers will understand the important role that the social environment plays in terms of culturally responsive teaching.

24. Teachers will learn strategies for how to address students' individual differences and similarities through voice and choice.
25. Teachers will learn strategies for managing their classrooms in a culturally responsive and respectful manner.
26. Teachers will understand culture's effect on curriculum, as well as how to adapt the curriculum so that it is more culturally responsive.
27. Teachers will understand how to select multicultural literature, and they will be introduced to a variety of different literature titles across various multicultural genres.
28. Teachers will learn how to work with diverse students using culturally responsive best practices.

Instructional Media

- Online Discussions
- Online Engagement
- Online Collaboration
- Instructor Feedback
- Instructor Interaction
- Online Resources and Websites
- Supplemental Instructional Materials
- Printable Classroom Resources

Evaluation

- Test #1 (5% of final grade)
- Test #2 (5% of final grade)
- Test #3 (5% of final grade)
- Test #4 (5% of final grade)
- Test #5 (5% of final grade)
- Autobiography and Goals for the Course (10% of final grade)
- Article/Video Reflection (15% of final grade)
- Course Collaboration/Share Ideas with the Class (10% of final grade)
- Cumulative Assignment/Project: Respond to Classroom Scenarios (20% of final grade)
- Culminating Practicum (20% of final grade)

Topical Outline

Unit One

- The History of Marginalization
- Examining the Classroom through a Cultural Lens
- The Foundations of Culturally Responsive Teaching
- **Assignment #1**

Write an autobiography including information about yourself, your grade level and what you specifically hope to learn about culturally responsive teaching. Your autobiography should be a minimum of three paragraphs.
- **Test #1**

Unit Two

- Trauma Informed Teaching
- ACEs and Assets
- Additional Strategies for Helping Students Who Have Experienced Trauma
- **Assignment #2**
  As an educator, it is important to be aware of the research, studies, and professional work done in the field. In the course, you will find an article and video that are relevant to the specific course content. Read the article and then write an essay with your thoughts.
- **Test #2**

Unit Three

- Unpacking Diversity and Social Justice
- The Relationship Among Culture, Communication, and Education
- The Three R's: Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships
- Creating and Sustaining Culturally Relevant Relationships
- **Assignment #3**
  Online Discussion Board Participation/Engagement: Please post a tip, strategy, or idea that specifically relates to effectively incorporating culturally responsive teaching into the classroom and will make a difference to other teachers in their own classrooms. Your assignment should be a minimum of three paragraphs and detailed enough for another teacher to easily follow. This is a great opportunity to share and collaborate with other teachers at your grade level around the country. Take time to review and respond to other postings that are relevant to your classroom population in order to gain effective ideas to use immediately in your classroom
- **Test #3**

Unit Four

- The Whole Student Approach to Learning
- Helping Students Build Confidence and Competence
- Culturally Inspiring Inclusive Teaching Practices
- **Test #4**

Unit Five
- Embracing Similarities and Differences
- Giving Students Voice and Choice
- Culturally Responsive Classroom Management Strategies

- **Test #5**

Unit Six

- Culture's Effect on Curriculum
- Selecting Multicultural Literature
- Working with Diverse Student Populations
- **Assignment #4**
  Write a minimum one-paragraph response for each of the eight classroom scenarios portrayed in Assignment 4. Each response should explain how you (as the teacher) should respond to each classroom situation using a culturally responsive manner. Each paragraph should be written in no less than ten detailed sentences and should espouse the principles of culturally responsive teaching.
- **Assignment #5**
  The culminating practicum is a three-step process. (1) In the first assignment, you were asked what goals you had and what you hoped to learn from the course. Think back to your original goals for this course. Write a minimum two-paragraph reflection specifically describing how what you learned can be used to help you reach those goal(s). (2) Next, write a minimum three-paragraph plan that specifically describes the ways in which you intend to implement a particular strategy you learned in this course into your own teaching situation. (3) Last, write a minimum two-paragraph reflection describing a student you have or have had in the past. Then, discuss how the strategies you learned in this course will specifically benefit that student as you put your plan into action.

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