



Course Outline

2026-2027 Catalog

CDF 57 - Teaching in a Diverse Society

Catalog Description

Transfer Status: CSU

Unit(s): 3.00

Lecture: 51.00 Contact hours/102.00 Out of class hours/153.00 Total hours/3.00 Unit(s)

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Course Description: This course presents an examination of the historical and current perspectives on diversity and inclusion and the impact of systemic societal influences on children's development, learning, and school experiences. Strategies for developmentally-, culturally-, and linguistically-appropriate anti-bias curricula will be explored, as well as approaches to promote inclusive and anti-racist classroom communities. This course places emphasis on self-reflection of the influence of teachers' own cultures and life experiences on teaching and interactions with children and families. (C-ID ECE 230).

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Describe historical and current perspectives on diversity and inclusion.
2. Identify and differentiate between various forms of diversity.
3. Discuss how stereotypes, bias, discrimination, systemic oppression and internalized privilege impact children's learning, development and school experiences.
4. Reflect on your own values and implicit and explicit biases and the ways in which these may positively and negatively affect teaching and learning.
5. Evaluate classroom environments, materials, and approaches for developmental, cultural, and linguistic appropriateness for infants and toddlers through the early primary years.
6. Describe appropriate teaching strategies and potential curriculum and pedagogical modifications to help all young children access the curriculum.
7. Describe strategies to promote an inclusive and anti-racist classroom community.
8. Identify approaches to help children negotiate and resolve conflict related to social injustice and bias.
9. Describe strategies to build collaborative, respectful partnerships with families.

Course Content

Topic Titles / Suggested Time Topic	
Lecture	
Topics	Lec Hrs
Foundational understandings for teaching in a diverse society	2.00
• Defining and clarifying dimensions of diversity: Sex and gender roles, sexual orientation	
Foundational understandings for teaching in a diverse society	2.00
• Defining and clarifying dimensions of diversity: National identity, culture, race/ethnicity	
Foundational understandings for teaching in a diverse society	2.00
• Defining and clarifying dimensions of diversity: Language and literacy	
Foundational understandings for teaching in a diverse society	2.00
• Defining and clarifying dimensions of diversity: Religion and belief systems	
Foundational understandings for teaching in a diverse society	3.00
• Defining and clarifying dimensions of diversity: Family structure and function	
Foundational understandings for teaching in a diverse society	2.00
• Defining and clarifying dimensions of diversity: Ability	
Foundational understandings for teaching in a diverse society	2.00
• Defining and clarifying dimensions of diversity: Age	
Foundational understandings for teaching in a diverse society	2.00
• Defining and clarifying dimensions of diversity: Socioeconomic status	
Foundational understandings for teaching in a diverse society	5.00

Topics	Lec Hrs
• Trends and current issues of equity and access as they relate to young children's learning and development ◦ Equity and access	
Foundational understandings for teaching in a diverse society	5.00
• Addressing misconceptions	
Classroom curriculum and environments	3.00
The influence of teachers on children's and families' lives:	
• Recognition of a teacher's personal bias and its impact on teaching • Supportive communication and interactions • Modeling respectful and inclusive behaviors • Collaborative partnerships with families	
Classroom curriculum and environments:	1.00
Culturally responsive, inclusive, and anti-racist teaching	
• Defining the terminology	
Classroom curriculum and environments:	4.00
Culturally responsive, inclusive, and anti-racist teaching	
• Equity and access for all children • Culture • Ability • Immigration status • Home-life and family characteristics and needs	
Classroom curriculum and environments	3.00
Culturally responsive, inclusive, and anti-racist teaching	
Teaching strategies and modifications:	
• Culturally responsive approaches for infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children	
Classroom curriculum and environments	4.00
Culturally responsive, inclusive, and anti-racist teaching	
Teaching strategies and modifications:	
• Talking to children about diversity • Helping children respond to social injustice and bias	
Classroom curriculum and environments	3.00
Culturally responsive, inclusive, and anti-racist teaching	
Teaching strategies and modifications:	
• Appropriate strategies for supporting dual language learners in developing English language and literacy skills	
Classroom curriculum and environments	2.00
Culturally responsive, inclusive, and anti-racist teaching	
Teaching strategies and modifications:	
• Pedagogical medications to meet individual needs	
Classroom curriculum and environments:	4.00
Environments and materials:	
• Elements of an anti-bias environment • Tools for evaluation • Selection of appropriate books and materials	

Total Hours: 51.00

Methods of Instruction

- Class Activities
- Guest Speakers
- Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture

- D. Lecture
- E. Multimedia Presentations
- F. Reading Assignments
- G. Interviews

Methods of Evaluation

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Research Projects
- C. Papers
- D. Oral Presentation
- E. Group Participation (Inactive)
- F. Class participation
- G. Written Assignments
- H. Classroom Observations

Examples of Assignments

Reading Assignments

1. Read a peer-reviewed article on systemic oppression and write a 2-3 page teaching philosophy statement articulating your goals as a teacher that consider the role of power and privilege in the classroom.
2. Read about the goals of anti-bias education and create a 2D or 3D illustration of how they intersect with developmentally appropriate practices.

Writing Assignments

1. Research global approaches to education and describe in 1,500 words the historical and current perspectives on diversity and inclusion.
2. Write a one-page "I Am From" poem that summarizes your individual identities, perspectives, communication styles, and summarize in one-page or more how your diversity will influence your work with children and families.

Out-of-Class Assignments

1. Students will observe children in an early childhood group care setting to investigate whether the program promotes acceptance of diversity and write a 2-3 page analysis paper comparing what was observed with the goals of anti-bias education.
2. Interview a teacher working with young children about their strategies to build collaborative, respectful partnerships with families, and create a 5-10 slide presentation to share with the class.

Recommended Materials of Instruction

Derman-Sparks, L., Olsen Edwards, J., & Goins, C. (2020). Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves. *National Association for the Education of Young Children*, 2nd. 978-1-938113-57-4.

Kissinger, K. (2017). Anti-Bias Education in the Early Childhood Classroom: Hand in Hand, Step by Step. *Routledge*, 1st. 9781138651593.

Derman-Sparks, L. et al. (2016). Leading Anti-Bias Early Childhood Programs: A Guide for Change (Early Childhood Education). *Teachers College Press*, n/a. 978-0807755983.

York, S. (2017). Roots and Wings: Affirming Culture and Preventing Bias in Early Childhood. *Redleaf Press*, 3rd. 978-1605544557.

Other Learning Materials

Open Educational Resource - Canvas Commons: <https://lor.instructure.com/resources/136cc34ecfe64737b652b5008c0f5288?shared>

Open Educational Resource - LibreTexts:

[https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Early_Childhood_Education/The_Role_of_Equity_and_Diversity_in_Early_Childhood_Education_\(Esquivel_Elam_Paris_and_Tafoya\)](https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Early_Childhood_Education/The_Role_of_Equity_and_Diversity_in_Early_Childhood_Education_(Esquivel_Elam_Paris_and_Tafoya))

Open Educational Resource - CAP 8 Textbooks in English and Spanish available at: <https://www.childdevelopment.org/higher-ed-faculty/curriculum-alignment-project/cap-8-course-textbooks>

The Reimagining Our Work (ROW) Book Collection: <https://exchangepress.com/row/>

Minimum Qualifications

Child Dev/Early Childhood Ed

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