

Education 441-4

Cultural Differences in Education

Instructor: Dr. J. Kehoe

Intersession, 1982

Tuesday and Thursday, 5:30 - 9:20

The course will examine the role of the school and other institutions in fostering understanding, acceptance and constructive relations among people of many different cultures. Institutional accommodation and the limitations of social organizations to reduce prejudice will be investigated and within that context strategies for change will be proposed and examined.

The course has four purposes.

1. To enhance those attributes of teachers necessary for effective teaching in a multicultural classroom. Those attributes include: respect, interaction management, empathy, orientation to knowledge, interaction posture, and tolerance for ambiguity. Class members will have an opportunity to participate in activities designed to enhance those attributes in themselves.
2. The second purpose is to discuss the goals and policy issues related to multiculturalism and the attitudes of Canadians toward multiculturalism.
3. To describe the characteristics of a multicultural school including: Providing for community participation; Modifying the hidden curriculum; modifying textbooks; Adapting teaching styles; Assessment for placement; Counselling; Crisis recognition and management.
4. To provide practical classroom activities for reducing prejudice and increasing acceptance of cultural diversity. This section will examine the sources of misunderstanding and prejudice. Strategies for change will include: information, case studies, critical thinking concepts, achieving empathy, role play, simulations, personal contact, and going public. Approaches to assessing change will be investigated.

Requirements

Students will be graded on:

1. The development of a curriculum unit consistent with a conceptual framework provided.
2. The analysis of a text book.
3. In class presentation of a curriculum project.
4. Leading a discussion of selected topics.

Texts

Aoki, Ted; Dahlie, J.; Werner, W; Ed. Canadian Ethnicity The Politics of Meaning. Centre for the Study of Curriculum and Instruction, University of British Columbia, 1978.

Wolfgang, Aaron; Ed. Education of Immigrant Students Issues and Answers. Toronto: O.I.S.E. Press. 1975.