

Washington Ethnic Studies Now Professional Development Series Syllabus

Tuesday, June 23rd - Thursday, June 24th
8:00 am - 5:00 pm, PST via Zoom

Instructor: Tracy Castro-Gill, MIT
Executive Director
Email: tracy@waethnicstudies.com

Required Text (provided by the University of Oregon):

Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies; Teaching and learning for justice in a changing world, edited by Django Paris and H. Samy Alim

Course Description:

Modules 1, 4, and 7 are built on the work of Dr. Paul Gorski's theory of equity literacy that claims authentic anti-racist work can't be done unless participants understand the causes of inequity and how it operates. So, these sessions are designed to build participants' capacity to understand racial oppression on systemic levels using different elements of Critical Race Theory, starting with the origins of racial classifications. These modules connect the origins of racism to current day practices and policies.

Modules 2, 5, and 8 are specifically about instruction; how educators can examine and re-imagine their instruction and classroom spaces - specifically the work of Dr. Django Paris and Dr. H. Samy Alim and their book *Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies*, which includes the work of Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings, who recently wrote that culturally responsive teaching is lacking.

Modules 3, 6, and 9 focus on Ethnic Studies curriculum - what it's not, what it is, and how we view education's purpose. These modules are designed using the work of Dr. Jeff Duncan-Andrade, Dr. Michael Dominguez, the XITO Collective, Oakland Unified School District, and our very own group of educators at Washington Ethnic Studies Now. Ethnic studies content is intentionally designated to the last module because it should be the last thing considered when creating an ethnic studies classroom. Educator reflection, knowledge building, and instructional shifts need to come first.

Course Objective:

Educators who engage in this PD series will be able to begin to contextualize anti-Blackness, race, anti-Black bias, racism, all forms of oppression at all levels (interpersonal, internalized, institutional, and systemic); identify pedagogical practices that perpetuate oppression and transform their praxis into liberatory education; identify and create culturally relevant and sustaining curricula and instructional practice that is student-centered and led, re-humanizing, indigenized, and reflective.

Course Instructional Methods:

Participants are expected to complete all reading assignments prior to the module for which readings are assigned. The modules will be interactive, with several small breakout sessions for activities and discussions. Reflection is a large component of this series, and the instructor will provide time for reflection, as well as a framework and tools for ongoing reflection. Be prepared to have frank, uncomfortable discussions about systemic racial oppression, including the roles you, as an individual, play in it, as well as uncomfortable reflection and discussions about your racialized, intersectional identity and positionality.

Schedule of Modules:

Tuesday, June 22nd - We cover the introductory level of each component of the series: Critical Race Theory, Culturally Sustaining and Disruptive Pedagogies, and Ethnic Studies.

- Historicizing Race and Contextualizing Anti-Blackness
- Pulling the Weeds; Rooting out Whiteness in the Classroom
- Dispelling Myths of Multiculturalism

Wednesday, June 23rd - We go deeper into the components and begin to look at what they might look like in practice. Module 5 includes workshop time.

- “Isms” Exploring Oppression and Intersectionality
- What Does Liberatory Education Look Like?
- Ontological Distance; The Educator’s Answer to Opportunity Gaps

Thursday, June 24th - The final iteration of the components are deep dives into each, ending with the distribution of the WAESN ethnic studies frameworks and instructions on how to use them. Module 9 includes workshop time.

- Critical Race Theory; Levels of Oppression
- Culturally Sustaining (and Disruptive) Pedagogies
- Ethnic Studies Frameworks and Content (new frameworks created by WAESN)