

Guiding Values, Principles, and Outcomes of Ethnic Studies Teaching

HOLISTIC
HUMANIZATION

CRITICAL
CONSCIOUSNESS

Given the range and complexity of the field, it is important to identify key values and principles of Ethnic Studies to aid in guiding and developing Ethnic Studies courses, teaching, and learning.

The foundational values of Ethnic Studies are housed in the conceptual model of the “double helix” which signifies the interdependence between holistic humanization and critical consciousness.

Humanization includes the values of love, respect, hope, solidarity, and is based on the celebration of community cultural wealth.

The values rooted in humanization and critical consciousness shape the following guiding principles for Ethnic Studies teaching and learning. Together, these are the two interwoven guiding values and seven principles Ethnic Studies lessons should include. Ethnic Studies courses, teaching, and learning will:



1. CULTIVATE

empathy, community actualization, cultural perpetuity, self-worth, self-determination, and the holistic well-being of all participants, especially Native People/s and People of Color;



5. CHALLENGE

imperialist/colonial hegemonic beliefs and practices on ideological, institutional, interpersonal, and internalized levels;



2. CELEBRATE

and honor Native People/s of the land and Communities of Color by providing a space to share their stories of struggle and resistance, along with their intellectual and cultural wealth;



6. CONNECT

ourselves to past and contemporary resistance movements that struggle for social justice on global and local levels to ensure a truer democracy;



3. CENTER

and place high value on pre-colonial, ancestral, indigenous, diasporic, familial, and marginalized knowledge;



7. CONCEPTUALIZE,

imagine, and build new possibilities for post-imperial life that promote collective narratives of transformative resistance, critical hope, and radical healing.



4. CRITIQUE

empire, white supremacy, anti-Blackness, anti-Indigeneity, racism, xenophobia, patriarchy, cisheteropatriarchy, capitalism, ableism, anthropocentrism, and other forms of power and oppression at the intersections of our society;

SOURCES

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