EDU 8678 – Multiculturalism, Gender, and Inclusion in Schools

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Course Objectives

- To develop a personal philosophy regarding multicultural education.

- To explore the history and purpose of multicultural education in society.

Today's Objectives

- To increase your awareness of three frameworks for multicultural education.

- To examine your own multicultural philosophy

- To become more aware of your own attitudes, perceptions, and feelings about various aspects of diversity.

- To explore the concept of culture

Today's Objectives

- Discussion Assignments
- Students will be able to define Multicultural Education
- Students will be able to describe Conservative, Liberal, and Critical Multiculturalism
- Students will work in groups to discuss the assigned readings.

What is Multicultural Education?

- Banks (1995) ME is a field of study designed to increase educational equity for all students that incorporates content concepts, theories, and paradigms from history, the social and behavioral sciences, and particularly from ethnic and women studies.

- Nieto (2001) argues that ME is a socio-political process based on relationships, critical questioning, and educational reform.

- Gorski (2001) defines ME is "a dedication to facilitating educational experiences in which all students reach their full potential as learners and as socially aware and active beings"

Conservative Multiculturalism

- Conditions for Justice
- Equal Opportunity Laws
- Schools Assimilate Students
- Cultural Homogeneity.
- Melting Pot

Conservative Multiculturalism

- Open, Free, and Competitive Market Economy where "pull themselves up by their bootstraps"

- The goals of excellence and equity in education are predicated on student participation in a free market of competition, opportunity, survival of the fittest, and upward social mobility.

Conservative Multiculturalism

- Americanize minority students must conform to an White schooling norm.

- Many elementary and secondary teachers support this conservative approach, believing that rapid assimilation into the mainstream culture is in the best interests of minority students.

- English immersion proponents who are opposed to bilingual programs.

- Melting Pot Ideology

Liberal Multiculturalism

- Accents the need for diversity and cultural pluralism
- Acceptance and celebration of difference
- Equity and excellence are achieved through acceptance, tolerance, and understanding (Banks, 1994).
- This approach masks the conflicts and contradictions inherent in our society, ignoring what at times seem like irreconcilable and divisive identity issues revolving around race, class, and ethnicity.

Liberal Multiculturalism

- Insufficient consideration is given to power constructs, control issues, and "official" knowledge.

- Barriers to equality of opportunity are not dealt with as part of a potentially transformative curriculum, the emphasis is primarily on a humanistic affirmation of democratic ideals and the naïve belief that a curriculum committed to such ideals will bring about change.

Liberal Multiculturalism

- African-American history month, teaching units that study, for example, the Japanese internment during World War II, and celebrations of different world cultures.

- Focus upon cultural differences, repression, and struggle against great odds typifies.

- A celebration of the uniqueness of individual cultures.

- Like the conservative approach, liberal multiculturalists assume that laws and policy decisions will bring about excellence and equity within the dominant culture and free-market economy.

Critical Multiculturalism

- Issues of equity and excellence cannot be effectively addressed without posing difficult but essential questions:
    - Under what conditions and by whom are concepts of equity and excellence constructed?
    - What do they look like for different groups and in different circumstances?
    - Can all groups benefit equally from a particular construction of these concepts?
    - What happens when different groups and individuals view these concepts differently?
    - How can equity and excellence be achieved in a society in which historically the dominant culture has determined their meaning?

Critical Multiculturalism

- The critical approach seeks justice by focusing on the relationships between equity and excellence, on one hand, and race, ethnic, and class configurations, on the other hand. It believes that leaving these matters to the processes of free-market competition and upward social mobility will only deny the achievement of justice.

Critical Multiculturalism

- Knowledge is not value-free but shaped culturally, historically, ethnically, and linguistically.

- Knowledge "never speaks for itself, but rather is constantly mediated through the ideological and cultural experiences that students bring to the classroom" (Giroux, 1988, p. 100) …"the act of knowing is integrally related to the power of self-definition" (1995, p. 133).

- The Histories and Narratives of subordinate groups must be a part of the school curriculum if their members are to engage in personally meaningful learning and if equity and excellence are to be properly served.

- Curriculum must be transformative, and educators as critical multiculturalists must enter into a democratic dialogue with each other to develop programs that promote critical reflection and inclusionary knowledge.

Group Activity

- Break up into two groups to discuss the main points of the Banks reading or the Tatum reading.

- After 10-15 minutes we will discuss the your thoughts on the readings.

Why do we need to be concerned about diversity? - Three Trends

- Global economy
- U.S. Demographic Shifts
- Individuals began celebrating differences instead of compromising their uniqueness to "fit in."

Global Market

- To a large extent, the strength of our economy depends on our ability to business with other parts of the world.
  - Business requires that we bring diverse peoples to the planning and negotiating table.
  - It makes good business sense to develop an understanding of their (i.e., the world) cultures.
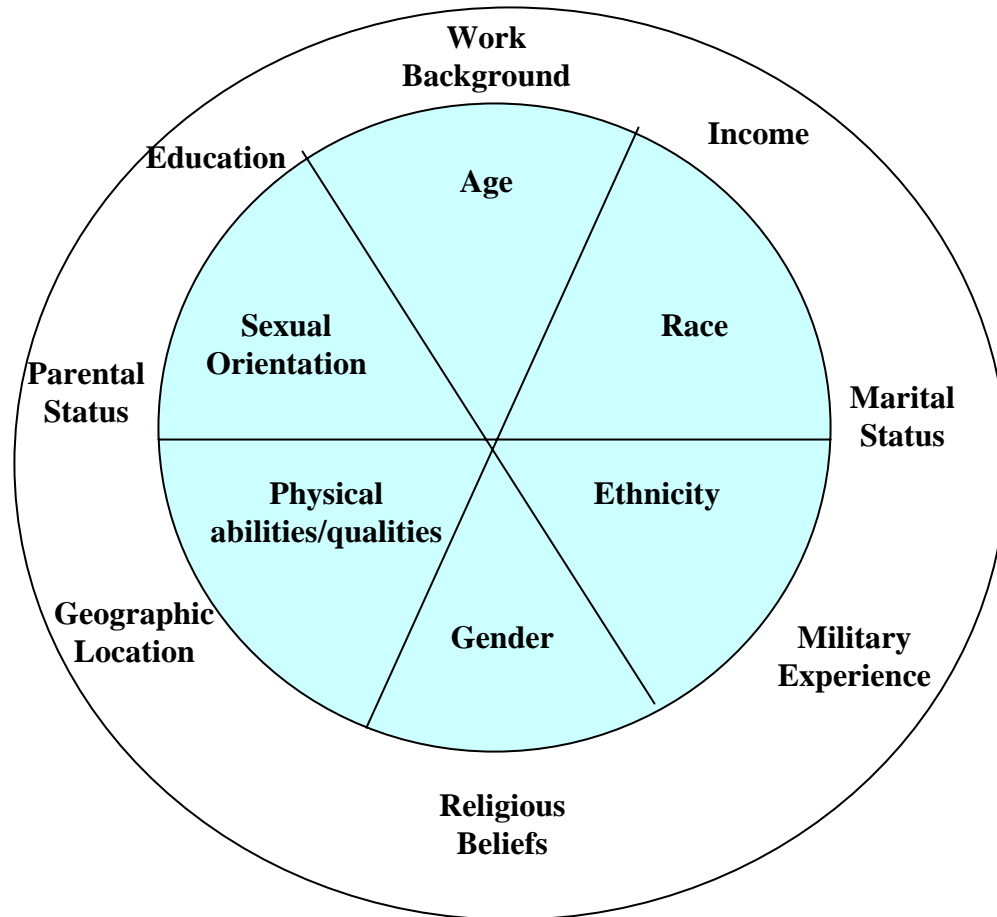- What can go wrong if we don't?

Changing Demographics

- Between 1998-2008 over 70% of new workers were women and people of color.
- African Americans and Hispanic/Latinos will be the majority in more than 1/3 of the nations largest cities
- Birthrates highest for Asians, Latinos, African-Americans, and Whites

Changing Demographics

- One in seven Americans speaks a language other than English at home.

Dimensions of Diversity

Culture

- Why should we care about diversity?
- What is the rationale for attention to diversity in education?

What is Culture?

- Culture is the totality of values, beliefs, and behaviors common to a group of people. A culture may include a shared language and folklore, communication styles, and ideas and thinking patterns by members of the group.

What is Culture? (OED says)

- **5. a.** *absol.* The training, development, and refinement of mind, tastes, and manners; the condition of being thus trained and refined; the intellectual side of civilization.

- **b.** (with *a* and *pl.*) A particular form or type of intellectual development. Also, the civilization, customs, artistic achievements, etc., of a people, esp. at a certain stage of its development or history. (In many contexts, esp. in Sociology, it is not possible to separate this sense from sense 5a.)