Overview

The course that was chosen to fulfills the LEARN Center grant is the Foundation of Literacy course. I will be teaching three sections of this course. Incorporated in this course will be discussion about how to:

• build a sense of belonging,
• support classroom conversations on diversity,
• incorporate diverse perspectives into curricula,
• and broaden the participation and success of all students.

Inclusion Practices in the Classroom

Building A Sense of Belonging: Build a sense of belonging through intentionally constructing a safe and open classroom community.

• Conduct personal interviews
• Have partner interviews so students get to know each other before forming groups
• Discuss learning styles and how to accommodate different types of learning
• Launch interactive discussion circles

Supporting Classroom Conversations: Support classroom conversations about diversity using student-created reflective writing assignments to identify supportive course design features, uncover potential issues, and nudge students toward campus support services.

• Incorporating Diverse Perspectives: Engage diverse perspectives by bringing content experts to the classroom.
• Have BIPOC teachers discuss culturally-congruent pedagogy
• Spotlight LGBTQ teachers who use QUILTBAG+ literature to enhance the English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum
• Use immigrant voices books to better understand how learners adapt to new environments
• Incorporate text set group assignments in which students build a text set unit around justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) topics
• Use a windows, mirrors, and sliding door perspective in classroom instruction

Broadening Participation and Success: Evaluate the demographics of the class, asking “who is missing?” and take steps to increase inclusivity by:

• setting expectations,
• creating classroom communication and collaboration,
• and situating iterative improvements through personalize evaluations, assessments, and progress monitoring.

“Diversity is having a seat at the table, inclusion is having a voice, and belonging is having that voice heard” (Fosslien & Duffy, 2019, p. 185).

Course Requirements

The purpose of this course is to teach the Foundations of Literacy which includes curriculum, instruction, and assessment of the teaching of reading as well as enhancing the knowledge, skills, and dispositions of the students so that they can become effective elementary and middle school teachers of English Language Arts. The main course standards are:

1. Acquaint the students with the reading process and its components and subsequently help students to define and delineate their beliefs about the reading process.
2. Acquaint the students with the various approaches to teaching reading.
3. Acquaint the students with the principles and strategies of beginning reading instruction.
4. Acquaint the student with the principles and teaching strategies of vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, phonics, and phonemic awareness.
5. Acquaint the students with informal assessment strategies that inform the teacher about children’s literacy knowledge.

References


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