May 19th, 9:00 AM

Building Social Justice Awareness Through the Curriculum: Teaching a Crash Course in Disability Studies

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Building Social Justice Awareness Through the Curriculum: Teaching a Crash Course in Disability Studies

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The Idea

- Diversity Training for Students

- Overview: Requirements for general education curriculum for all students to take one course related to the experiences of underrepresented groups in the United States

- As of 2012, UNC Chapel Hill, University of Pennsylvania, Occidental College, St. Edwards, Fairleigh Dickinson, Iowa State University, and DePaul University were among the universities making this requirement.
DePaul’s Program

- Sophomore Seminar in Multiculturalism in the United States
- Taught by faculty from across the university
- Proposal to Liberal Studies Council
  - Writing-based learning
  - Cross-disciplinary academic sources
  - Primary and secondary sources
  - Research project by students
  - Focus must be on underrepresented populations in the United States
Purpose

- Build awareness for social justice
- Encourage the concept that ability-level is a part of diversity
- Connect with a diverse student population to expand their definition of what diversity means
- Get a seat at the table
Day One

- People-first language
- Connections with Civil Rights Movement
- “Freaks” (1932)
The Rhetoric of Disability

- Rhetoric: speaking or writing to persuade

- Language = power; who has the power to define us? Who has the power to decide the language used?
“Freaks” 1932
Reading/Topics: Models and Frameworks

[Image: DISABILITY STUDIES by Dan Goodley]
Reading/Topics

Official Trailer for the book
Reading/Topics
Rhetoric and Politics
Reading/Topics
Autism Spectrum Disorder

- DSM IV Aspergers
- DSM 5 Autism Spectrum Disorder
Reading/Topics: Disability Pride
Reading/Topics: Representations of Disability in Art and Culture

► Comic Books
► Film (Finding Nemo, My Left Foot, Million Dollar Baby)
► Art Riva Lehrer
Culminating Projects

- Research-based
- Academic sources
- Other sources
- Field research
The Rhetoric of Disability

Questions or comments? Thank you.