

Anti-Racist Workshop outcomes regarding- Reworking a lesson, an approach, or a syllabus

We all know the importance of creating a safe and inclusive learning environment. This can be done in many ways and very much includes the relationships and interactions between students and faculty. However, I think the foundation for successful relationships and respect begins in presenting our space. In a classroom or office, this is often your conscious choice of décor. A first impression makes a huge impact and making sure one of the first things students notice is that your space is safe, accepting, and acknowledging can lay the foundation that we want as equitable educators.

As I believe the online classroom is here to stay. My goal was to redesign my online spaces and Canvas pages to represent diverse perspectives, specifically regarding race and ethnicity.

How I went about this:

1. First, I wanted to hear from my students about their perspectives. I did this by reviewing their first assignment, which is a get to know you task. In this assignment, I ask such questions as:
 - What are your favorite lyrics or quote? Why does this quote resonate with you?
 - You are hosting a dinner of 5 people, 2 of which are historical figures of your choice. Who would you have at your table and why? (Be creative and fill all five seats, your guests don't have to be currently living.)
 - In my Native studies class, I have them pull up a chair for an additional guest who must be Native.

These questions are meant to be engaging and entertaining, but they tell me a great deal about who and what my students value.

2. I then took the information I learned from my student's perspective and added that into my online presence to demonstrate that I see and hear my students.

3. I added this in by starting each of my weekly modules with a quote, piece of art, or image from a diverse perspective. Many of which were derived directly from my student comments.

Besides redesigning my online space to be more inclusive of different racial groups and cultures, I also wanted to acknowledge the contributions of people of color more in my class beyond just the content I teach. I will do this through my announcement section of the online class setup. In my teaching and from the anti-racist workshops, a goal was inclusion and celebration. Therefore, I want to mark these events on the calendar and bring education and awareness to them. Below is my first example of doing that. I actually was unaware of who Fred Korematsu was until I saw his name at one of my students' tables and researched him. I believe our students can be one of our greatest learning resources when we take the time to listen to their perspectives.

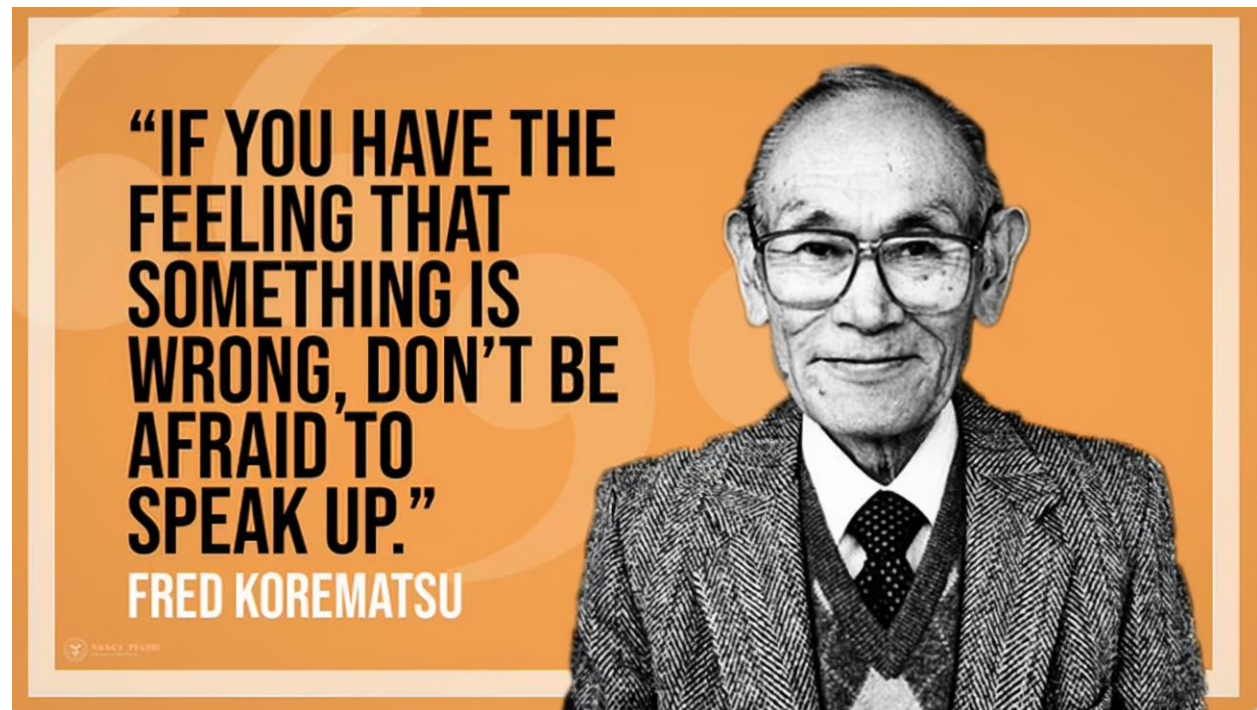
Below is a cut and paste from my class announcement in my Ethnic Studies 101 class.

January 30th Fred Korematsu Day!

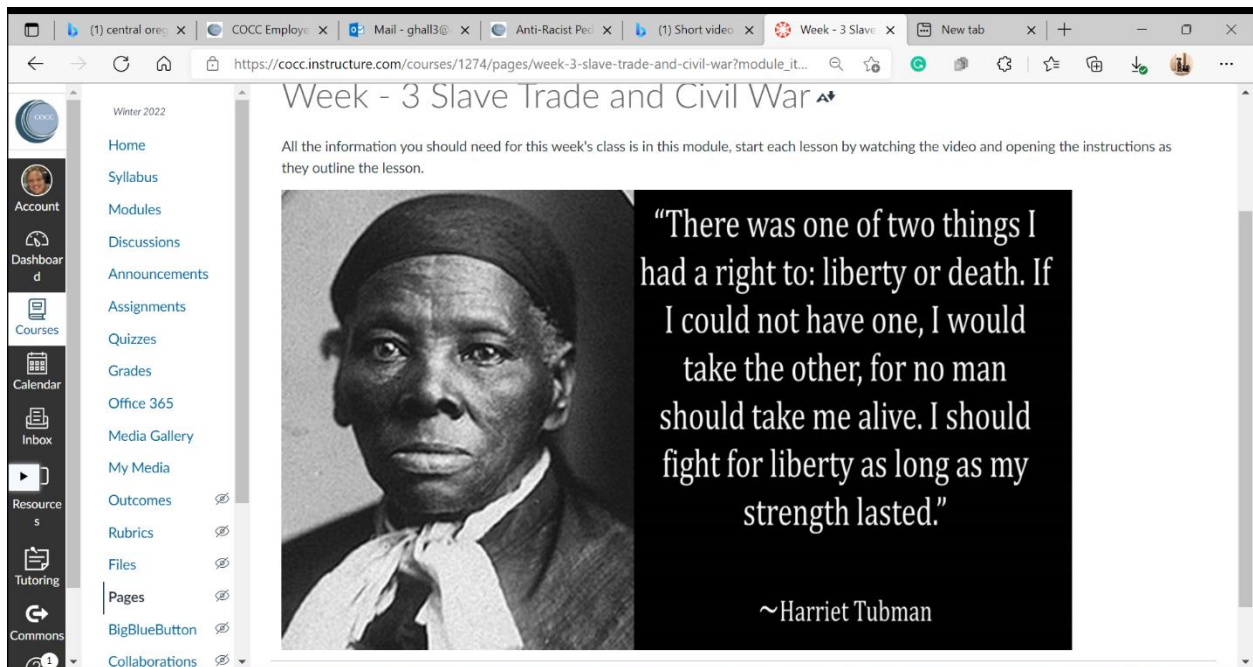
Hello, I hope you are all doing well, and your term is progressing nicely. I personally try not to do "holiday teaching," such as just teaching about Martin Luther King Jr. on MLK day. I do this because I believe it can send the message that teaching on these topics once a year is good enough. Would it be considered good enough if we only talked about US presidents on Presidents Day? I don't think so. So, I try to send the message through my actions that this history should not be regulated to a few days a year but rather entwined with our history as a whole as that is how it occurred. That being said, there are some recognition days that a lot of people don't know about that I would like to start sharing. I think it is important to recognize the contribution of all and believe this is a way to do that.

January 30th is Fred Korematsu Day (this day of recognition is acknowledged in states such as California and Michigan). Fred Korematsu is a Japanese-American civil rights activist. He was the first Asian American to have a remembrance day named for him in 2010. Korematsu is best known for his refusal to comply with executive order 9066 regarding Japanese Internment. He sued the US government, saying that Internment was unconditional. His case went all the way to the Supreme Court, where he lost. Korematsu was jailed and ordered to an internment camp for the duration of the war.

Korematsu was eventually recognized for his contributions to civil rights and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998. At the ceremony, it was said Fred Korematsu, is "An American who wanted only to be treated like every other American, Fred Korematsu challenged our nation's conscience, reminding us that we must uphold the rights of our own citizens even as we fight tyranny in other lands."



Here are a couple of examples of how I added diverse content to the beginning of my weekly modules. Prior to the redesign, it was just a blank space with a couple of directions. One of the things I learned from my "get to know you assignment" is that many women in the class want to learn about the contributions of women, so I tried to add in this focus. I also tend not to be that artist inclined as that is out of my wheelhouse, so I tried to add that element here using artwork from diverse artists and poetry. A goal of ethnic studies is to learn history from the perspective of the BIPOC people who lived it, so I also used direct quotes.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with multiple tabs open, including 'central oreo', 'COCC Emplo...', 'Mail - ghall3@', 'Anti-Racist Ped...', '(1) Short video', and 'Week - 3 Slave'. The address bar shows the URL: https://cocc.instructure.com/courses/1274/pages/week-3-slave-trade-and-civil-war?module_it...

The page title is 'Week - 3 Slave Trade and Civil War'. Below the title, there is a navigation sidebar on the left with options like Home, Syllabus, Modules, Discussions, Announcements, Assignments, Quizzes, Grades, Office 365, Media Gallery, My Media, Outcomes, Rubrics, Files, Pages, BigBlueButton, and Collaborations.

The main content area contains the following text: 'All the information you should need for this week's class is in this module, start each lesson by watching the video and opening the instructions as they outline the lesson.'

Below this text is a large graphic featuring a black and white portrait of Harriet Tubman on the left. To the right of the portrait is a black box with white text containing a quote: 'There was one of two things I had a right to: liberty or death. If I could not have one, I would take the other, for no man should take me alive. I should fight for liberty as long as my strength lasted.'

At the bottom right of the quote box, it says '~Harriet Tubman'.

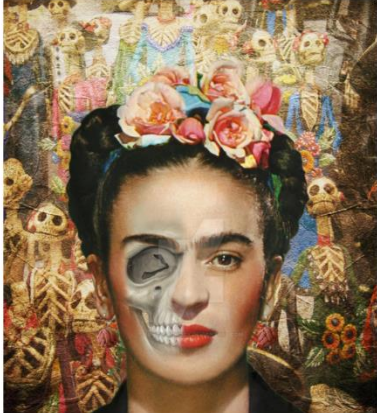
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Week - 4 Mexican American War

All the information you should need for this week's class is in this module, start each lesson by watching the video and opening the instructions as they outline the lesson.

Artwork by Frida Kahlo, a Mexican painter best known for her uncompromising and brilliantly colored self-portraits that deal with such themes as identity, the human body, and death.



Left sidebar menu: Winter 2022, Home, Syllabus, Modules, Discussions, Announcements, Assignments, Quizzes, Grades, Office 365, Media Gallery, My Media, Outcomes, Rubrics, Files, Pages, BigBlueButton, Collaborations

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Week 5- Harlem Renaissance and WWI

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If We Must Die

Claude McKay, 1889 - 1948

If we must die—let it not be like hogs
 Hunted and penned in an inglorious spot,
 While round us bark the mad and hungry dogs,
 Making their mock at our accursed lot.
 If we must die—oh, let us nobly die,
 So that our precious blood may not be shed
 In vain; then even the monsters we defy
 Shall be constrained to honor us though dead!
 Oh, Kinsmen! We must meet the common foe;
 Though far outnumbered, let us show us brave,

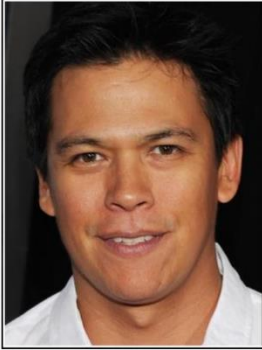
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Week 4- Dawes Act

All the information you should need for this week's class is in this folder, start each lesson by watching the video and opening the instructions as they outline the lesson.



I remember hearing stories from my mother and father about their parents and grandparents when they were taken off the reservation, taken to the boarding schools, and pretty much taught to be ashamed of who they were as Native Americans. You can feel that impact today.

— Chaske Spencer —

AZ QUOTES

Chaske Spencer is a member of the Fort Peck Tribe best known for his role as Sam Uley in The Twilight film series

Winter 2022

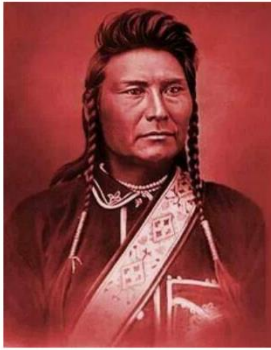
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View All Pages

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Week 3- Indian Removal & Treaty Time

All the information you should need for this week's class is in this folder, start each lesson by watching the video and opening the instructions as they outline the lesson.



"All men were made by the same Great Spirit Chief. They are all brothers. The Earth is the mother of all people and all people should have equal rights upon it."

—Chief Joseph