

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
TRANSFORMATIVE TEACHING PROGRAM**

**EDUC 663 DL1 Culturally Relevant Pedagogy
3 Credits, Fall 2015**

PROFESSORS:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A. Prerequisites: Admission into the MEd Curriculum and Instruction concentration in Transformative Teaching program; completion of the EDUC 659 Teacher Leadership Course.
B. Offers opportunity to view how language and culture shape realities, including perceptions of children as learners. Explores cultural constraints and transformative possibilities embedded within cultures.

DELIVERY METHOD:

This course will be delivered online using synchronous and asynchronous formats via the Blackboard learning management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

To participate in this course, students will need the following resources:

- High-speed Internet access with a standard up-to-date browser, either Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox. Opera and Safari are not compatible with Blackboard;
- Consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of the course requirements.
- A headset microphone for use with the Blackboard Collaborate web conferencing tool
- The following software plug-ins for Pcs and Macs respectively, available for free downloading by clicking on the link next to each plug-in:
 - Adobe Acrobat Reader: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - Windows Media Player:
<http://windows.microsoft.com/enUS/windows/downloads/windows-media-player>
 - Apple QuickTime Player: www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

EXPECTATIONS:

- **Course Participation:** Active and consistent participation in the course as described in the individual course syllabus is extremely important for online courses. Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which include viewing of all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions. The completion of all readings assigned for the course is assumed. Online courses will, at a minimum, have weekly requirements for student participation that can be documented by any or all of the following methods:
 - Submission/completion of assignments as specified by the professors
 - Communication with the professors
 - Active, meaningful, and respectful communication with peersExpect to log in to this course **at least 3 times a week** to read announcements, participate in the discussions, and work on course materials. Students must also regularly check their GMU email for communications from the instructors. Remember, this course is **not** self-paced. There are **specific deadlines** and **due dates** listed in the **CLASS SCHEDULE** section of this syllabus to which you are expected to adhere. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.
- **Written Assignments:** All formal written assignments will be evaluated for content and presentation. (Formal assignments do not include Blackboard discussions, class/course feedback, in-class reflections or journaling) The American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition (APA) style guide should be followed for formal written assignments. All written work unless otherwise noted must be completed on a word processor and should be proofread carefully. (Use spell check!) If students are not confident of their own ability to catch errors, they should have another person proofread their work. When in doubt, they should check the APA manual. Portions of the APA manual appear at the Style Manuals link on the Mason library web guide at <http://library.gmu.edu/resources/edu/>. Students may consult the Writing Center for additional writing support. Students will do the following:
 - Present ideas in a clear, concise, and organized manner. (Avoid wordiness and redundancy.)
 - Develop points coherently, definitively, and thoroughly.
 - Refer to appropriate authorities, studies, and examples to document where appropriate. (Avoid meaningless generalizations, unwarranted assumptions, and unsupported opinions.)
 - Use correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar.
- **Sessions:** Because our online courses do not have a "fixed" meeting day, our session will generally **start** on Wednesday and **finish** on Tuesday. Synchronous meetings will be arranged as needed.
- **Technical Competence:** Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students are expected to seek assistance if they are struggling with technical components of the course.
- **Technical Issues:** Students should expect that they could experience some technical difficulties at some point in the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly.

- **Mentoring/Advising:** If you would like to schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues, and you are unable to come to the Mason campus, we can meet via telephone or web conference. Send an email to your instructors to schedule your one-on-one session and include your preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.
- **Netiquette:** Our goal is to be **collaborative**, not combative. Experience shows that even an innocent remark in the online environment can be misconstrued. We suggest that you always re-read your responses carefully before you post them to encourage others from taking them as personal attacks. **Be positive in your approach to others and diplomatic with your words.** We will do the same. Remember, you are not competing with each other but sharing information and learning from one another as well as from the instructors.

LEARNER OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to enable students to:

1. Develop a strong cultural identity so as to be responsible for teaching the whole child by teaching values, skills, knowledge for school success and participation in society
2. Gain knowledge of multicultural theory and practice
3. Link classroom teaching to students' out-of-school personal experiences and community situations in order to develop critical consciousness
4. Gain cultural insight to intelligently address pedagogical issues as they arise in everyday practice

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS:

This course fits with the core values of the College of Education and Human Development, which include collaboration, research based practice, innovation, ethical leadership, and social justice.

This course is designed to meet the following professional teaching standards:

- GMU Dispositions for a Career Educator III and V
 - Commitment to Key Elements of Professional Knowledge
 - Commitment to Democratic Values and Social Justice
- Teachers College Columbia Teacher Expectations II and IV
 - Learner-Centered Educators
 - Advocates of Social Justice
- NBPTS Propositions 1 and 2
 - Teachers are Committed to Students and Their Learning
 - Teachers Know the Subjects They Teach and How to Teach Those Subjects to Students

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Brown-Jeffy, S. and Cooper, J. E.(2011). Toward a Conceptual Framework of Culturally Relevant Pedagogy: an Overview of the Conceptual and Theoretical Literature. *Teacher Education Quarterly*. V38 N1 p65-84. This article will be provided on Bb.

Gay, G. (2010). *Culturally Responsive Teaching*, 2nd Ed. New York, New York: Teachers College Press. [chapters 7 & 8] These chapters will be provided on Bb.

Scherff, L., and Spector, K. (2011). *Culturally Relevant Pedagogy*, Rowman and Littlefield Education: Lanham, Maryland.

*Please note: Additional articles, chapters, PowerPoint presentations, and media will be posted on Bb as needed.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS: (aligned with outcomes/objectives)

1. Assignment descriptions

- Course Participation (Assesses objectives 1, 2, 3, and 4)
- Culturally Relevant Teaching Project – PBA (Assesses objectives 1, 2, 3, and 4). See “Selected performance-based assessment” (#4) below for guidelines.

2. Assignment weighting (percentages, points)

Class Participation	
Session #1	10 points
Session #2	10 points
Session #3	10 points
Session #4	10 points
Culturally Relevant Teaching Project	60 points

3. Grading policies – Grade distribution

95-100	A
90-94	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
75-79	C
74 and below	F

4. Selected performance-based assessment

Culturally Relevant Teaching Project. This project is designed to provide you time and space to be creative with your curriculum content in designing meaningful, culturally relevant learning opportunities for your students in your classroom(s) or school. The curriculum design must address the five themes identified in Brown-Jeffy and Cooper’s (2011) conceptual framework of CRP: identity and achievement, equity and excellence, developmental appropriateness, teaching the whole child, and student-teacher relationships. (See the article for further explanation of these themes.) Obviously, many of you teach in SOL grade levels and have specific content (units) that “must be covered” so this is an opportunity to reconfigure your content into a broader culturally

relevant framework that moves beyond “covering content” for the test; we challenge you to consider how to teach your *students* through the teaching of your content. Your curriculum could move outside of your classroom into the school or even the community. We encourage you to select something that is meaningful to you and your individual context.

Think about ways you can move students beyond “covering the content” to ways of “uncovering the content” within a culturally relevant framework. Similar to Maryellen Weimer’s view of “using content” to support student learning we are asking you to puzzle out how to do this work in your classroom/school/community. For example, you might redesign a unit that creates opportunities for students to grapple with broader social and cultural issues that impact their own lives today in ways that will help them make sense of and connect personally to the curriculum.

As part of your project, you will need to:

- Use a culturally relevant framework
- Identify the content and/or learning goals of the project
- Create a more learner-centered approach (connecting theory to practice)
- Assess student learning formatively (collecting student data about the learning process and their learning throughout the project)

Two Individual Reflections and Sharing:

- A. Reflection One (20 points)
- B. Reflection Two (20 points)
- C. Culturally Relevant Teaching Project Sharing using VoiceThread (20 points)
Detailed guidelines will be distributed later.

BLACKBOARD REQUIREMENTS

Every student registered for any course in the *Transformative Teaching program with a required performance-based assessment* is required to submit this assessment, the *Culturally Relevant Teaching Project* to Blackboard (regardless of whether a course is an elective, a onetime course or part of an undergraduate minor). Evaluation of the performance-based assessment by the course instructor will also be completed in Blackboard. Failure to submit the assessment to Blackboard will result in the course instructor reporting the course grade as Incomplete (IN). Unless the IN grade is changed upon completion of the required Blackboard submission, the IN will convert to an F nine weeks into the following semester.

GMU POLICIES AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

- a. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code (See <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>).
- b. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- c. Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- d. The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance (See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>).
- e. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester (See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).
- f. Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- g. The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing (See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>).

PROFESSIONAL DISPOSITIONS

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

CORE VALUES COMMITMENT

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles. <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>].

663/665 Class Schedule
The two courses are integrated for the fall semester

Sessions	Readings & Assignments
<p>Session 1 (2 weeks)</p> <p>Dates: Sept. 2 – Sept. 15</p> <p>Topics: Introduction to Culturally Relevant Pedagogy (CRP); Overview of the Conceptual and Theoretical Literature; Learner-centered teaching connections to CRP; Teacher Research</p>	<p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Watch: the video overview of the fall semester 2. Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown-Jeffy & Cooper article • Weimer -- Learner-Centered Teaching: Five Key Changes to Practice (summary) 3. Participate in Discussion #1: Readings (See Discussion folder for guidelines) 4. Complete Teacher Research Journal Reflection #1
<p>Session 2 (2 weeks)</p> <p>Dates: Sept. 16 – Sept. 29</p> <p>Topics: Exploring culturally relevant pedagogy; Teacher Research</p>	<p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Gay chapters 7 & 8 2. Participate in Discussion #2: Culturally Relevant Pedagogy –Teacher Identity & Teacher Voices 3. Complete Teacher Research Journal Reflection #2 4. Due: CRP project reflection #1
<p>Session 3 (2 weeks)</p> <p>Dates: Sept. 30 – Oct. 13</p> <p>Topics: CRP; Teacher Research</p>	<p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Scherff & Spector chapters 2. Bb Collaborate Session #1 – CRP project check in and bridge CRP into equity focused research 3. Complete Teacher Research Journal Reflection #3
<p>Session 4 (2 weeks)</p> <p>Dates: Oct. 14 – Oct. 27</p> <p>Topic: Teacher Research</p>	<p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Caro-Bruce chapters 1, 2 & 13 2. Participate in Discussion #3: Culturally Relevant Pedagogy – Student Voices & Community Connections 3. Complete Teacher Research Journal Reflection #4

<p>Session 5 (2 weeks)</p> <p>Dates: Oct. 28 – Nov. 10</p> <p>Topic: Teacher Research</p>	<p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Caro-Bruce chapters (choose two) 2. Bb Collaborate Session #2 in Mentor groups 3. Complete Teacher Research Journal Reflection #5
<p>Session 6 (2 weeks)</p> <p>Dates: Nov. 11 – Nov. 24</p> <p>Topic: Teacher Research</p>	<p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Caro-Bruce chapters (choose two) 2. Participate in Discussion #4 on Research 3. Complete Teacher Research Journal Reflection #6
<p>Session 7 (1+ week)</p> <p>Dates: Nov. 25 – Dec. 5 (Includes Thanksgiving recess Nov. 25 – Nov. 29)</p> <p>Topic: Teacher Research</p>	<p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete Teacher Research Journal Reflection #7 2. Due Dec. 5th: CRP project on VoiceThread
<p>Session 8 (1 week)</p> <p>Dates: Dec. 6 – Dec. 12</p> <p>Topic: CRP</p>	<p>Assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete Feedback in VoiceThread on CRP project 2. Complete end of semester reflective feedback

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

The PBA will be assessed according to the professional standards and the specific assignment guidelines using the following rubric:

Culturally Relevant Pedagogy *Assignment rubric*

CRITERIA	Beginning (Does not meet standards) 1	Developing (Meets standards) 2	Accomplished (Exceeds standards) 3	Exemplary (Exceeds standards) 4
Multiple Perspectives (GMU V, TC IV, NBPTS 1)	Budding understanding of how own perspective affects teaching and relationships with children, families, pedagogy, and colleagues	Understands own perspective and how it affects teaching and relationships with children, families, pedagogy, and colleagues	Understands how own perspective affects teaching and relationships with children, families, pedagogy, and colleagues. Respects difference and avoids deficit thinking. Distinguishes between assumptions and facts	Metacognitively understands the origins of own perspective, questions self about perspectives, actively seeks understanding of others' cultural knowledge and views, respects difference. Avoids deficit thinking. Distinguishes between assumptions and facts
Content Depth (GMU III, TC II, NBPTS 2)	Demonstrates uneven skill and knowledge about the disciplines and practices that you present	Demonstrates skill and knowledge about the trends, theories, <i>or</i> disciplinary practices in education	Demonstrates skill and knowledge about the trends, controversies, theories, <i>and</i> disciplinary practices in teaching and effectively applies skills and knowledge to create critical, imaginative, and creative thinking for all students.	Demonstrates critical metacognition about skill and knowledge on the trends, trends, theories, and disciplinary practices in teaching and learning and effectively applies skills and knowledge to create critical, imaginative, creative, and relevant multicultural curricula for all children

<p>Critical Consciousness (GMU V, TC IV, NBPTS 1)</p>	<p>Emergent understanding of personal and/or social power in own experience</p>	<p>Emergent understanding of personal and social power from multiple perspectives in diverse contexts</p>	<p>Consistent understanding of personal and social power from multiple perspectives in diverse contexts and how power connects to perspectives, marginalization, cultural capital, social justice, and achievement.</p>	<p>Analyzes personal and social power from multiple perspectives in diverse contexts, including institutional and societal contexts, and how power and privilege connects to world view, marginalization, cultural capital, social justice, and achievement. Uses critical consciousness as framework in formulation of theory and practice in teaching and learning.</p>
<p>Culturally Relevant Framework</p>	<p>Does not use a culturally relevant framework to examine or change their practice</p>	<p>Uses a culturally relevant framework to address academic achievement</p>	<p>Uses a culturally relevant framework to address academic achievement and cultural competence</p>	<p>Uses a culturally relevant framework to address academic achievement, cultural competence, and critical consciousness</p>
<p>Learner Centered Approach</p>	<p>Does not use a learner centered approach to change their practice</p>	<p>Minimally address the 5 key changes to practice to create a more learner centered classroom (balance of power, function of content, role of teacher, responsibility for learning, purpose and processes of evaluation)</p>	<p>Adequately address the 5 key changes to practice to create a more learner centered classroom</p>	<p>Sophisticated attention given to the 5 key changes to practice to create a more learner centered classroom</p>