

CrCrTh 627, Summer 2016, Issues and Controversies and Antiracist and Multicultural Education
Students' Synthetic Statements, from the Final Course Evaluation

The synthetic statement is the fourth question on formal course evaluations for the Critical and Creative Thinking Graduate Program. See the text of questions 1-3 by choosing any evaluation from this page: <http://cct.wikispaces.umb.edu/CourseEvaluations>.

Question 4: "Building on your comments from Questions 1-3 in the formal evaluation, compose a synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs) evaluating this course. (Imagine readers who might not be willing to wade through all the answers to Qs 1-3, but are willing to read more than simply the numerical averages of standard course evaluations.) Please make comments that help the instructor develop the course in the future and that enable some third party appreciate the course's strengths and weaknesses. Among other things you might comment on the overall content and progression of classes, the session activities, and the use of mentors to support the learning in the course."

Below are the Synthetic Statements from the respondents who gave permission for these comments to be shared on the web.

- This course benefitted me tremendously in both my personal and professional life. I sought this course as an opportunity to come to understand new and different perspectives and strategies around antiracist and multicultural education, and came away with even more than I had hoped for. What you invest in this course you will reap ten-fold, and the more thoughtful and critical you can be around the readings and class discussions outside of class, the more you will come to find how deeply our lives are shaped by these issues. I feel grateful for what I have gained, and even more so for what I can pass on to my students to enrich and broaden their education as well.
- This course is thought provoking and covers a wide range of topics. It asks students to actively engage in discussions, providing a safe environment for diverging opinions. Micia was a wonderful instructor, knowledgeable, fair and approachable. There are weekly assignments that promote critical thinking, encouraging the student to explore topics that are not always highlighted.
- This course was a good amount of work, but it never felt overwhelming. Micia is amazing and created a class of honesty, respect and values. Every voice is heard and a dialog is started. Race is a sensitive topic but it's a crucial conversation that this class encourages.
- This class provides a unique balance of reflection and practice. Through the exploration of weekly themes, students are given the opportunity to reflect on the weekly readings, their personal connections to the topics and engage in conversations about how to implement in a school to promote multicultural and anti-racist education. I would highly recommend this class to anyone, as much of what is explored is relevant not only to education but what's happening in our country and our world. I left this class with a lot of questions but also a desire to continue exploring themes beyond this class. For any student interested in this class, be prepared to do some serious reflecting especially on personal experiences, beliefs or perspectives related to the topic. For me at least, while I was familiar with many of the themes explored, I always left each week with some new insight or perspective that I had never previously heard of or was aware of. Most importantly I feel much more engaged in what's happening in our country and have been engaging more with peers and colleagues around

what's been happening in this country as it's related to my class. In effect, I feel that I'm working to create my own multicultural and anti-racist education process for myself which isn't a direct goal of the class, but will be influenced by your participation in this class.

- Multicultural education issues was a very good course which will help you self reflect on your attitude and experiences related to race, culture, ethnicity. This course has a weekly online component which is required, to give time to discuss the readings and or current events as they unfold. This course involves two current events analysis papers to address a current multicultural topic of your choice and to explain and understand what is the issue at hand . The courses ends with a Generational Journey larger paper that encouraged you to look at the top seperate generations and their experiences which are around you and make comparisons to what we were discussing in class. and what has happened in real life. This course will help you look at multicultural education issues more objectively and understand the impact of students who are experiencing these discriminations, oppressions and prejudices as they try to attend school and learn how to be "American."
- I would recommend this course to all prospective students to become more aware of how they relate to the world. It does not matter if you are in education or a career in social justice, it is important to know your perspective and read materials that can widen it. Be prepared for some sensitivity. I really enjoyed hearing the passion expressed from Micia about the progress and continued work for educators and all people in regard to multicultural antiracist issues. Her mid semester check-in was also very helpful in knowing status of involvement with course material as we are not shown grades during the course. I believe this is due to the time constraints of a 6 week course.