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Class Summative Reflection

Understanding intersectionality and being open minded are two things that I learned throughout the course. Intersectionality is pertinent in understanding diversity and the plethora of backgrounds individuals have. Intersectionality centralizes the interconnectedness of an individual’s identity with a strong emphasis upon race, gender, and class. It allows us to understand the ways in which these identities operate and influence our perspective within the world. More importantly intersectionality is significant within the classroom as it articulates the means of diversity and discrimination within a classroom setting. Many students have different intersectional identities that guide the way in which they learn and receive course content. In addition to such, these intersectional identities can consider the different ways in which students face oppression within the academic setting. Throughout the course we learned about the ways in which we can maneuver around such means of discrimination as well as being reflective upon our own biases that may influence the classroom setting. We discussed ways in which we can accommodate students with language and physical barriers as well as mental disabilities. In understanding the ways in which individuals can be discriminated against in addition to being aware of how intersectional identities play a role, we are able to create better learning environments which has been the most meaningful to me throughout the course.

One thing in the course that challenges my existing perceptions are how important reflection is when in the classroom setting. Often, we don’t realize how our biases influence our actions or the ways in which we perceive people, prior to understanding who the individual is. One question that I have is how can those who are a part of the professoriate ensure that students are engaging with those intersectional identities that contribute to diversity? Two ways the information learned in class will influence my work as a professional and researcher is that it has taught me to seek knowledge and information outside of my comfort zone as well as consider how diversity is pertinent when conducting research so that we can engage with those different backgrounds. Research and innovation need diversity. Equality, diversity, and inclusion are essential for the creative, collaborative, dynamic research and innovation system needed to improve our understanding of ourselves and the world around us, and to harness that knowledge in the service of society.