

Diversify Your Course Readings

“Inclusive Excellence and Our Teaching” OTL Workshop

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Presenters: Carrie Forbes, Kate Crowe, and Esther Gil, University Libraries

When designing course content, faculty should aim for an inclusive curriculum that reflects the perspectives and experiences of a pluralistic society. Below are some guidelines to consider when choosing materials and readings for your course.*



1. Highlight the diversity among scholars in the field when choosing readings. Include materials written or created by people from different backgrounds and perspectives. Critically examine your course from multiple viewpoints and include materials that represent various perspectives accurately (consider gender, nationality, ethnicity, age, sexuality, political affiliation, socio-economic status, ability, linguistic background, etc.).
2. Whenever possible, select texts and readings whose language is gender-neutral and free of stereotypes. If you are choosing a reading that contains stereotypes, be sure to explain your reasoning behind including the reading.
3. Use a wide variety of resources in different formats, including books and ebooks, articles, newspapers, videos, photographs, and more.
4. Select readings that help students understand and critique how knowledge is formed within your field. Why is peer-reviewed literature important? Are there other ways of knowing that contribute to the field beyond Western thought?
5. Consider incorporating primary sources or other resources that include personal stories and counter narratives.
6. Use diverse readings throughout the course, rather than creating a supplemental reading list or devoting only one week to diversity.

*Recommendations drawn from Banks (2016) and McIntosh (2000).

The University of Denver Libraries is committed to the values of diversity and inclusion and offer several services and resources to support faculty integrating Inclusive Excellence into the curriculum.

Each reference librarian at the University of Denver specializes in certain disciplines and is responsible for supporting campus academic departments with research and instruction support.

- Library subject liaisons can create research guides that will help students find diverse sources for their assignments that include books, relevant databases, and pertinent websites. The subject librarians can also create video tutorials that will help students through the research process.
- Subject librarians are available for consultations with faculty to show them search strategies for finding relevant material for their courses, including databases that index more diverse sources and perspectives.
- Subject liaisons can provide library instruction on the available sources students can use for their projects, including helping students find both peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed sources. Students can also come to the Research Center for one-on-one consultations with a research librarian.

For more information on these services, please see Research Help page on the library's website: <http://library.edu>.

References

Banks, J. A. (2016). *Cultural diversity and education: Foundations, curriculum, and teaching*. New York: Routledge.

McIntosh, P. (2000). Interactive phases of personal and curricular re-vision with regard to race. In G. Shin and P. Gorski (Eds.), *Multicultural resource series: Professional development for educators*. Washington, D.C.: National Education Association.