Course Profile: Cultural Competence for Library and Information Professionals

Course Number: LIS 8370

Credits: 1

Prerequisite(s): None

Rationale for Inclusion in Curriculum:
The basic premise underlying this course is that library and information science professionals must understand the socio-historical emergence of multiple user communities as a prerequisite for integrating library services into these communities. Therefore, this class is concerned with learning the who and why alongside the how of information access and delivery. This course takes a socio-historical approach to understanding these issues as a means of helping library and information science professionals develop a sense of critical cultural consciousness about their own complex identities and that of the users whom they might serve. Gaining cultural competencies will empower LIS professionals to better support all communities.

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of the course students will be able to:
1. Critically analyze power-differentiated groups including ethnic group culture.
2. Reflect on ethnic identity development.
3. Apply insights from Critical Race Theory to understand other marginalized groups including gender, class, and sexual identities.
5. Identify the social and cultural factors that contribute to contemporary conditions in urban settings.
6. Explore the socio-political backdrop of Detroit and its related library and information communities as a case study in urban librarianship.

Content:
Multicultural Competence
Urban Librarianship
Race and culture
Ethnic group culture
Ethnic identity development
Prejudice reduction
Theoretical and conceptual frameworks for analyzing multiculturalism

Course Methodology:
A mix of lectures, readings, class discussions, videos, group and individual presentations, guest speakers and, where appropriate, tours of library and information facilities.
Bases for Evaluation of Student Performance:
Papers; oral presentations; class attendance and participation; assessment activities.

Text: To be determined.

Approved: 6/12
Updated: 8/13