TIFFIN UNIVERSITY / ONLINE

DEC300 Connect
(3 credit hours)
Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course places emphasis on students applying critical analysis, problem-solving, research techniques, and multimodal communication methods in order to evaluate aspects of their cultural self-awareness and development. The course aims to help students strengthen their awareness and understanding about diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) through the lens of culture, as well as enable them the ability to work more effectively with people different from themselves. Rigorous academic curriculum and experiential learning structures using integrative teaching and learning practices are included in this course. The purpose of this course is to facilitate experiences for students that lead them to make connections between classroom studies and life outside the classroom in a way that transforms theory into practice related to DEIB. Successful students earn a certificate in Creating cultural Uniqueness from the Center for Intercultural Excellence.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Evaluate and assess personal and professional presence across multiple mediums and continue making progress towards personal and professional goals.

2. Articulate a clearer understanding of important aspects of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB), including implicit bias, microaggression, identity and orientation, and awareness in various multicultural identities.

3. Analyze and compare others' perspectives and how these perspectives are essential for not only a more productive workplace but also an environment where better decisions are made because of the breadth of thought and viewpoints.

4. Practice and value the art of active listening and appropriate follow-up for a shared understanding of communication outcomes.

5. Increase awareness of DEIB concepts and build the skills to better communicate and value a culture of DEIB.

6. Implement best practices to enhance multicultural awareness, knowledge, and skills.

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Required Textbook(s) and Resources

Your course has no required textbook. All resources are included in each week.

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#).

Time Commitment

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses are designed with the expectation that you dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour to course activities and preparation **each week**. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week**.

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).

2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.

3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET** on **Wednesdays.**

4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET** on **Saturdays, and**

5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET** on **Sundays.**

Learning Activities

Activities include critical analysis, problem-solving exercises, and research projects that will help you evaluate your cultural self-awareness. You will engage in experiential learning through forum discussions, personal reflections, and creative assignments like creating cultural mosaics and a word cloud. Additionally, you'll develop skills in active listening, perspective-taking, and effective communication through activities such as an empathetic listening practice and code-switching journal. The course also includes designing training documents on microaggressions and creating a comprehensive cultural presentation. These activities aim to bridge theoretical concepts with practical applications, enhancing your ability to work effectively in diverse environments.

Key Assessment (Taskstream Submission)

This TU course features a "Key Assessment" that provides you the opportunity to demonstrate your program's core competencies. It also shows how the course fits within the broader curriculum. These assignments include creating a cultural mosaic poster that visually and

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narratively represents your cultural identity and DEIB insights, developing a training document on recognizing and addressing microaggressions in the workplace, and producing a reflective course summary highlighting your learning and personal growth. These assessments integrate theoretical knowledge with practical applications, showcasing your ability to evaluate personal and professional presence, articulate DEIB concepts, and implement best practices to enhance multicultural awareness and communication. Through these tasks, you will demonstrate your understanding of DEIB principles and their application in various contexts.

Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
Forums Activity 1.1 (n/a) Activity 1.2 (30)	**Forums** Activity 2.1 (40)	**Forums** Activity 3.1 (40)	**Forums** Activity 4.1 (40)	**Forums** Activity 5.1 (40)	**Forums** Activity 6.1 (40)	**Forums** Activity 7.1 (20)	**250**
Assignments Activity 1.3 (100)	**Assignments** Activity 2.2 (100)	**Assignments** Activity 3.2 (100)	**Assignments** Activity 4.2 (100)	**Assignments** Activity 5.2 (100)	**Assignments** Activity 6.2 (150)	**Assignments** Activity 7.2 (100)	**750**
130	**140**	**140**	**140**	**140**	**190**	**130**	**1000**

Grading Scale

A: 90-100% | B: 80-89% | C: 70-79% | D: 60-69% | F: <60%

Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

Start Here

- ☐ MON: Activity 1.1: Meet Your Peers - Introductory Post

Week 1 – Understanding Self within DEIB Contexts

- ☐ WED: Activity 1.1: Meet Your Peers – Follow-Up Post
- ☐ WED: Activity 1.2: Image of Self Forum
- ☐ SAT: Activity 1.2: Image of Self Forum
- ☐ SUN: Activity 1.3: Word Cloud Identity Assignment

Week 2 - Unconscious Bias and Cultural Awareness

- ☐ WED: Activity 2.1: Unconscious Bias Awareness Mind Map
- ☐ SAT: Activity 2.1: Unconscious Bias Awareness Mind Map

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□ SUN: Activity 2.2: Cultural Awareness Presentation

Week 3 - Active Listening and Perspective-Taking

□ WED: Activity 3.1: Empathetic Listening Practice
□ SAT: Activity 3.1: Empathetic Listening Practice
□ SUN: Activity 3.2: Perspective Taking Exercise

Week 4 - Communication in Professional Settings

□ WED: Activity 4.1: Understanding and Applying Code-Switching
□ SAT: Activity 4.1: Understanding and Applying Code-Switching
□ SUN: Activity 4.2: Personal Code-Switching Journal

Week 5 - Microaggressions and Building Resilience

□ WED: Activity 5.1: Recognizing and Responding to Microaggressions
□ SAT: Activity 5.1: Recognizing and Responding to Microaggressions
□ SUN: Activity 5.2: Training on Microaggressions

Week 6 - Cultural Mosaic Poster

□ WED: Activity 6.1: Cultural Mosaic Ideas
□ SAT: Activity 6.1: Cultural Mosaic Ideas
□ SUN: Activity 6.2: Cultural Mosaic Poster Creation

Week 7 - The Future of DEIB in Higher Education

□ WED: Activity 7.1: Future of DEIB Discussion
□ SUN: Activity 7.2: Course Reflection

Tips for Success

Online learning requires self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery. Your course is a place for you to grow as you benefit from the expertise, experience, and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge and understanding.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

For More Information:

Be sure to review the Support, Policies, and Procedures addendum.