EDU 5105 MULTICULTURAL SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

SPRING:2008: PROFESSOR: DR. KORYNNE TAYLOR-DUNLOP

SYNTHESIS—BY: OMERO C. CATAN III

 This course gave me time for reflection on so many levels. It truly made me think about my intentions as I carry out my duties in my career. The texts that we read as a group and the presentations from Collins, Making Choices to Black Feminist Thought, caused us to really consider how minorities have overcome their harsh surroundings in the past, and then the subtle innuendos that they still have to endure today. This course made me consider how I might treat everyone who comes into my life’s pathways. I may say that as a Christian, I will treat everyone with respect, but after the discussions and presentations in this course, I really have to keep in mind and deliberately go out of my way to ensure that all individuals are treated fairly.

 First, as an “ice breaker,” we sat down to enjoyed different foods that members of cohort 8 shared with each other. This exercise brought us together as a way of understanding how different cultures use foods to describe their way of life. The old adage, “you are what you eat” applies, as cohort 8 sat down to enjoy the different flavors from Norway to Nigeria to Italy and back again. Afterward, Dr. Dunlop and the members of cohort 8 enjoyed a discussion about how these foods were made, and why they members decided to cook or make these delitious treats. The answers were interesting in that culture played a role in their creations as the members reminisced about their foods.

Afterward, Dr. Dunlop encouraged individual members to present their understanding of the texts that were given to us for homework. The presentations were certainly “food for thought,” and the discussions afterward were informative about how minorities are treated in the united states and how educators should be aware the various stereotypes that cause many false interpretations of minorities today. In particular, Black Femenist Thought was instrumental in describing about how Black females have been able to overcome their hardships and terrible treatment in the workplace.

 After each presentation of the works by Collins and Collins, it was apparent that Dr. Dunlop was able to encourage us as a cohort to bring to the fore our feelings about the treatment of miniorities in our country. Also, toward the end of the course, I especially appreciated the two presentations about Schein’s Culture. It wrapped up the course about how not only the background of one’s life can affect academic performance, but how the culture of groups in the schools can do so as well. Unions, teachers, families and positions can affect the atmosphere of a school settling as a leader tries to encourage a positive learning environment so our children can succeed academically.

In addition to the texts of the treatment of minorities, Dr. Dunlop shared videos about Ellis Island and Lewis Hine’s pictures as it relates to the treatment of immigrants in American life. These videos were instrumental in detailing the experiences of immigrants, children and minorities as they struggled to reap the benefits of the “American Dream.” Another video describing how the pictures of Lewis Hine captured the faces of the children; they were especially poignant as Hine snapped pictures of them in factories, working in slovenly conditions in their youth which was not only unsavory, but abusive. One could tell that through our discussions of Hine’s work, we were all affected by the horrors of the immigrant experience especially as they tried to enter the United States during the “heyday” of Ellis Island.

All in all, Multicultural Social Organizations was a reminder that immigration plays a vital role in our lives today as we interact with one another in our respective careers. Dr. Dunlop was instrumental in encouraging us to present our thoughts as we shared our own experiences of being mistreated, and applied our own feelings to the experiences of how we should others.