

Closing Gaps in Education & Achievement

LAUSD Course # NA-14-232 (3 Salary Points)

Course Syllabus

Course description:

Topics covered in this course include defining the gaps that exist in academic achievement on a national scale, based on students' racial/ethnic backgrounds, socio-economic levels, linguistic proficiency and environment, as well as gender. Roots and causes of the ongoing disparities are examined, as well as consequences of such gaps on individuals, the family unit, society and the economy. Practices and posture of educators are then discussed to be factors to close these gaps, toward profound positive change. Participants conduct original and authentic research on a topic of choice related to one or more identified achievement gap(s), with collaboration among course colleagues and the instructor throughout the varied stages of the research project. The course ends with a presentation that must be shared in the participants' professional and/or personal community as well as with the course participants, to evoke action and change toward more equitable education practices, toward the goal that every student can fulfill his/her potential of excellence.

Course Outline:

Course Introduction

Unit I: **Defining of the Gaps**

Lesson 1: Linguistic-related gaps

Lesson 2: Gender-related gaps

Lesson 3: Socio-economic-related gaps

Lesson 4: Racial/Ethnicity-related gaps

Unit II: **Causes of the Gaps**

Lesson 5: Linguistic-related gaps

Lesson 6: Gender-related gaps

Lesson 7: Socio-economic-related gaps

Lesson 8: Racial/Ethnicity-related gaps

Unit III: **Consequences & Implication of the Gaps**

(Lesson 9)

Unit IV: **Closing the Gaps**

Lesson 10: Effective Pedagogies to Engage, Motivate, & Increase Meaning

Lesson 11: Attitudes: Countering Stereotypes, Biases, and Maintaining High Expectations and Respect

Lesson 12: Addressing and Confronting Racism and other Social Issues with Educators and Students

Lesson 13: Promoting True Integration, Teamwork, Family, & Belonging

Lesson 14: Overcoming Discrepancies between Background of Teacher to that of Students

Lesson 15: Restorative Justice & Positive Intervention & Behavior Management

Lesson 16: Examples of Success toward Closing the Achievement Gaps

Unit IV: **Research Project and Presentation**

Course Wrap-Up

