

NEH/TBR SUMMER SUMMIT

Bridging Cultures and Educating for Democracy at Cleveland State Community College

Baha'i Faith Community Center

July 29, 2016

Nashville, Tennessee

Cleveland State
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



ANSWERING THE CALL

Bridging Cultures at Cleveland State Community College

Participants

- Will Benson, Associate Professor of Music
- Robert Brandon, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Victoria Bryan, Assistant Professor of English
- Robert Ellis, Adjunct Professor of History
- Andrew Foskey, Librarian, Information Literacy/Learning Systems and Services
- Jimmy Fowler, Adjunct Professor of Religion
- Jayne Hasting, Associate Professor of English
- Neil Greenwood, Professor of History
- Alicia Juskewycz, Instructor of Sociology
- Denise King, Vice President of Academic Affairs
- Scott Redmond, Associate Professor of English
- William Seymour, President
- Joey Tolbert, Adjunct Professor of Humanities
- Matthew Tolbert, Associate Professor of Psychology
- Sandy Whetmore, Adjunct Professor of Education
- Charles Wilson, Adjunct Professor of Philosophy

Cleveland State
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



PSYCHOLOGY AND RELIGION: A PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE RELATIONSHIP

Matthew Tolbert

Psychology and Religion

- “Most psychologists explain religion from a perspective that those that are religious ought not to be.”
- “What I insist upon is not psychology *of* religion, but psychology *and* religion. In that psychology offers what it can and religion offers what it can. Then, the two can dialogue.”
- “Psychology has moved so much toward being a science, that it has lost it’s humanities roots.”

Psychology and Religion

- What was learned
 - ▣ Students struggle with understanding how religion relates to their psychological development
 - ▣ An understanding of spirituality is difficult for students to grasp
- Future Considerations
 - ▣ More diversity in religious traditions

Cleveland State
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



CRITICAL PRISON STUDY: COMPOSITION I AND ETHICS LEARNING COMMUNITY

Victoria Bryan
Charles Wilson

Why Critical Prison Study?

- Mass Incarceration
- 2.3 million incarcerated in this country
- Unique and devastating impacts on rural areas
- Often an underrepresented concern for families of the incarcerated
- Creating a safe educational space for the formerly incarcerated

The Courses and Their Goals

- Learning Community Model
- Composition I - Research and writing about the prison industrial complex, carcerality, policing, incarceration, etc.
- Ethics I – Study of how general ethical theories are implied in law enforcement and treatment of prisoners.
- Service Learning
 - Extra credit
 - Involvement in book clubs at the county jail, participation in pen pal programs, book drives for county jail, reentry initiatives
 - Reflection required at end of courses

NEH Influences and Impacts

- Understanding “Community” in complex ways
 - Prison is a community.
 - 95% of incarcerated people will return to their communities.
 - What kind of community do we want to be?
- Exploring ways to approach that conversation with students.
 - Students or students’ families may have been impacted by this system directly or indirectly
 - Allowing students a safe space to explore these ideas
- What does it mean to be “civically engaged” when

Connections and Contacts

- Humanities TN contacts
 - Funding for initiatives that serve the service learning aspect of our course
 - Opportunities to develop our course for various audiences
- Stacy Rector - Director of Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
 - Guest speaker in class during fall 2015
 - Helped organize a panel presentation on the Death Penalty in America that featured our country's 100th death row exoneree.

Successes

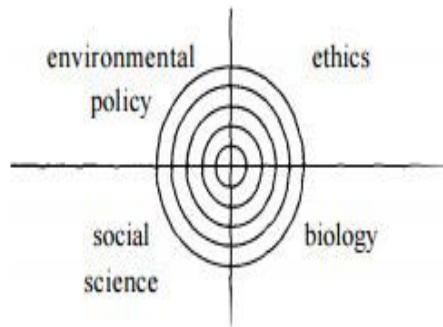
- Students deal carefully with a complex subject about which few have thought critically before.
- Deeper thought, more attention to detail, more careful reasoning in Composition I papers
- Close community within course leads to higher retention
- Successful projects:
 - Desdia Dill's reentry pamphlet for the Bradley County Jail
 - Haven Wight's art therapy proposal (Honors Capstone)
- Majors changed to social work, psychology, criminology, etc.

Goals for Future Development

- Add Sociology I to learning community
- Develop assignments that serve all three courses
- Continue organizing guest speakers that add a fresh perspective to the subject matter
- Use existing contacts to identify more service learning opportunities
- Develop additional resources locally and in the State of TN to share perspectives and propose solutions

Afterword: An unintended but great outcome

CONSILIENCE: The Unity of Knowledge (Edward O. Wilson)



“I see how all this ties together.”

FUTURE TEACHERS



In Their Classroom

Sandy Whetmore

Class Discussions



- What is democratic engagement?
- Why should teachers care?
- How can our differences be a strength?
- How will you choose to incorporate
 - these ideas into your classroom?



Modified Writing Assignments

- Autobiography
- Philosophy of Education Paper
- Transfer/Articulation and Praxis
- Diversity and Social Issues



Problem-Based Learning

Group Project

- Identify the Problem
- Create a Solution
- Present Your Campaign





OBSERVATION JOURNAL REFLECTIONS

- 20 hours observing in a public or private k-12 classroom: can be in two locations

- 5 hours can be attending a school board meeting, faculty meetings, parent-teacher meetings, or faculty in-services



Planned Field Trips



Amish School: Benton, TN

Anoor Academy: Chattanooga
Islamic Center

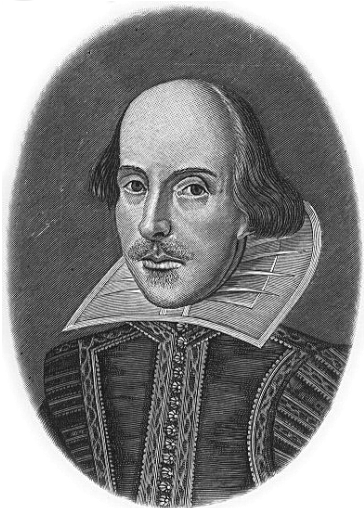


Seventh-day Adventist School:
Cleveland, TN



Bowman Hills School
A PLACE TO LEARN AND GROW IN CHRIST

Bridging the Higher Education Gap in Humanities 1010



HUM 1010-Library Collaboration



- Move beyond the traditional library research session
- Research as a means to enrich students' lives
- Practice critical thinking and promote civic learning
- Apply research techniques to real-life situations
 - i.e. Brexit vote or 2016 Presidential campaign

Cleveland State
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



EDUCATING FOR DEMOCRACY

Robert Ellis and Will Benson

Cleveland State
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



NEXT STEPS

Robert Brandon