Anti-Racist Pedagogy – High Hopes Syllabus – Winter 2022

Building a compassionate environment where learners of all races, economic statuses, and individual differences are included requires some consideration across all levels of instruction, but I chose to focus on the syllabus.

Our syllabi include hard, fast rules that must be followed and, in some cases, legality requires the wording to be structured in a way that is not user friendly. The idea of taking a “High Hopes” approach to syllabus structuring is a way to become more inclusive of all learners in a friendlier approach. Applying the principles of community to the language used in the sections of the syllabus that can be personalized makes the syllabus more user friendly.

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Additional Resources:

An article from Inside Higher Ed on the “Hope Theory” for student success:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2012/07/06/researchers-apply-hope-theory-boost-college-student-success>

An example of a “High Hopes” syllabus:

<https://www.mcca.org/uploads/ckeditor/files/high-hope-syllabus.pdf>

A more extensive article written for Bryn Mawr about the syllabus process (and a bundle of other information about racial inclusion):

<https://www.brynmawr.edu/inside/academic-information/research/centers-institutes/teaching-learning-institute/creating-rethinking-syllabi-open-learning/revolutionizing-my-syllabus-process>