

CENTER FOR MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

EDC&I 505 Seattle Campus/BEDUC 520 Bothell Campus Seminar in Curriculum and Instruction: Culturally Relevant Teaching: Theory and Practice

3 credits

July 13 – July 24 MTWTHF



Gloria Ladson-Billings
2009 Visiting Professor
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Teaching and teacher education are under attack in unprecedented ways. Policymakers, administrators, parents, and community members all want to see a causal relationship between teaching and student performance/achievement. In a standards driven, high stakes tests environment is the construct of a culturally relevant pedagogy a viable, useful, or necessary one? This course rests on the premise that teachers can and do make a difference in the educational (academic, social, cultural) life chances of students and that difference can be enhanced through a culturally relevant pedagogical approach.

In this course we will examine both the macro and micro contexts of teaching and learning and address the following questions:

- What do we mean by good teaching?
- What is a teacher in the public imagination?
- What possibilities exist for reducing academic disparities between/among cultural groups? What role, if any, does teacher education play in improving student learning?

Gloria Ladson-Billings is the Kellner Family Chair of Urban Education in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was the 2005-2006 president of the American Educational Research Association. Ladson-Billings' research examines the pedagogical practices of teachers who are successful with African American students. Her work has won numerous scholarly awards including the H.I. Romnes faculty fellowship, the Spencer Post-doctoral Fellowship, and the Palmer O. Johnson Outstanding research award. She is the former editor of the Teaching, Learning, and Human Development section of the *American Educational Research Journal*, and the author of numerous journal articles, book chapters, and the two critically acclaimed books, *The Dreamkeepers: Successful Teachers of African American Children* and *Crossing over to Canaan: The Journey of New Teachers in Diverse Classrooms*.

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