

LDR 810-42: Cross-Cultural Dynamics

Sandra M. Anderson

Omega Graduate School

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Professor: Dr. Jared Sorber

Assignment #1

Assignment #1 – Course Essential Elements

1. Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:

- a. Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the first week of the term. Post this document in DIAL.
- b. Professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

Course Essential Elements (EE):

1. Interdisciplinary Cross-cultural Understanding

2. Interdisciplinary Cross-cultural Communication

3. Interdisciplinary Cross-cultural Missions in a Global Society

4. Cultural Adjustment Map

Interdisciplinary Cross-cultural Communication

Interdisciplinary cross-cultural communication is the essential element addressed in this essay. The decision was determined by the Tedd Talk by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: The Danger of a Single Story. Up until this point at OGS, this is the first time a video featuring a Black woman or a woman of color has been placed on a syllabus. While I have learned a lot from the resources and research, there is a lack of diversity. Adichie, raised by her father, a university professor, and mother, a university administrator, discussed how she often heard poverty stories about their house boy (Adichie, n.d.). When she finally had an opportunity to go to his home, she was astonished to find that his brother made beautiful baskets (n.d.). This was an unexpected skill because she thought of him from a family of poverty and hopelessness. Later, when Adichie traveled to America for her university undergraduate work, she now was greeted by a roommate who viewed her from a single story she had been told about Africa (n.d.). Adichie also began to discuss how one of her professors even viewed her from a single story and told her that a novel she wrote for the class was not “African” enough (n.d.). The professor told her that the characters were too much like him as a middle-class, educated person (n.d.).

Adichie’s story reminds us of the need to diversify the stories we see, listen to, and read and the stories we tell ourselves and others. Every form of communication tells us something. To acquire global competencies, we have to be open to understanding other people’s stories. This will help develop skills to work with people who define problems differently than oneself (Buchmüller, et. al., 2021). For students to be prepared for today’s global world, they need

opportunities for intercultural, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary collaborative learning which will foster mutual understanding and empathy (2021).

Works Cited

Adichie, C. N. (n.d.). Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: The danger of a single story | TED Talk.

Retrieved July 26, 2024, from [https://www.ted.com/talks/
chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story](https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story)

Buchmüller, S., Malhotra, S., & Bath, C. (2021). Learning how to engage with another's point of view through intercultural, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary collaborations. *Journal of University Teaching & Learning Practice*, 18(7), 89-111.