



Creating a Culturally Responsive School Climate Online Course Syllabus

Course Objectives

In this six-week, twelve-hour course, you will be able to meet the following objectives:

1. Understand the role of culture in the education of multilingual students
2. Explore strategies to build a culturally responsive school climate
3. Apply strategies to build collaborative relationships with multilingual students and their families and foster family engagement

Course Components

The Creating a Culturally Responsive School Climate online course consists of three thematic components:

1. Component 1: Understanding Culture and Its Role in Teaching and Learning
2. Component 2: Strategies for Culturally Responsive Instruction
3. Component 3: Engaging Multilingual Learners and Their Families

Each of the three components will have two parts. In each part, you will participate in three types of activities:

1. **Recorded presentations.** You will view recorded presentations and classroom videos and reflect on your learning using a note-taking guide.
2. **PLC discussions.** Following the presentations, you will reflect on the process with your colleagues in online PLC discussions.
3. **Application activities.** You will have an opportunity to apply what you have learned through a variety of activities.

Course Timeline

The course timeline in the following table is structured to optimize time for contributing to the PLC discussions, reflecting and returning to the conversations, and completing the component assignments before moving to the next component. To maximize the benefit and impact of the PLC discussions, it is important that participants progress at approximately the same pace. Please plan accordingly so you can complete the course requirements. You'll need to spend approximately two hours per week in the course for the full six weeks.

The facilitators will be guiding you through the online course and will reach out periodically to be sure you are active in the online course, on track with the timeline, and offer support. Please let us know any time you have questions or concerns at courses@getsupported.net.



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Course Timeline: Six Weeks

Pacing	Assignments	Assignment due dates
Introduction Week One	Pre-course assessment	Due Week One
	Padlet resource or comment	
	Introduction PLC discussion	
Component 1: Weeks One–Two Recommended readings: <i>Culture in the Classroom</i> & <i>Preparing for Culturally Responsive Teaching</i> ¹	Component 1 Part 1 PLC discussion	Due Week Two
	Component 1 Part 2 PLC discussion	
Component 2: Weeks Three–Four Recommended reading: <i>Unlocking ELs’ Potential</i> , Chapter 2	Component 2 Part 1 PLC discussion	Due Week Four
	Component 2 Part 2 PLC discussion	
Component 3: Weeks Five–Six Recommended reading: <i>A Guide for Engaging ELL Families</i>	Component 3 Part 1 PLC discussion	Due Week Six
	Component 3 Part 2 PLC discussion and assessment plan	
	Post-course assessment and evaluation	

Requirements for Course Certificate

Participants are eligible for a course certificate for 12 hours of continuing education and professional development upon successful completion of the course, outlined here:

1. Complete the pre-course assessment by the end of Week One.
2. View all recorded presentations (Introduction, Component 1 Parts 1-2, Component 2 Parts 1-2, and Component 3 Parts 1-2) by the component deadlines listed in the timeline above.
3. Complete all activities contained within the presentations and on the note-taking guides by the component deadlines.
4. Complete Components 1-3 PLC discussion activity within the timeframe stated in the table by
 - Posting your own original response to the PLC questions (minimum 1 initial post per PLC question).
 - Posting a substantive response to colleagues’ posts (minimum 1 response per PLC discussion).
5. Complete the post-course assessment and all work by the course end date. No late work will be credited after the course is finished without prior written permission from a course facilitator.

¹ Please see page four for the links to all readings.



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Course Checklist



Assignment	Due Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-course assessment	Week One
<input type="checkbox"/> Padlet assignment	Week One
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction PLC-initial post	Week One
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction PLC-response	Week One
<input type="checkbox"/> Component 1 reading (recommended)	Week Two
<input type="checkbox"/> Component 1 Part 1 PLC discussion-initial post	Week Two
<input type="checkbox"/> Component 1 Part 1 PLC discussion-response	Week Two
<input type="checkbox"/> Component 1 Part 2 PLC discussion-initial post	Week Two
<input type="checkbox"/> Component 1 Part 2 PLC discussion-response	Week Two
<input type="checkbox"/> Component 2 reading (recommended)	Week Four
<input type="checkbox"/> Component 2 Part 1 PLC discussion-initial post	Week Four
<input type="checkbox"/> Component 2 Part 1 PLC discussion-response	Week Four
<input type="checkbox"/> Component 2 Part 2 PLC discussion-initial post	Week Four
<input type="checkbox"/> Component 2 Part 2 PLC discussion-response	Week Four
<input type="checkbox"/> Component 3 reading (recommended)	Week Six
<input type="checkbox"/> Component 3 Part 1 PLC discussion-initial post	Week Six
<input type="checkbox"/> Component 3 Part 1 PLC discussion-response	Week Six
<input type="checkbox"/> Component 3 Part 2 PLC discussion-initial post	Week Six
<input type="checkbox"/> Component 3 Part 2 PLC discussion-response	Week Six
<input type="checkbox"/> Post-course assessment and evaluation survey	Week Six



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Recommended Readings

Component 1

Gay, G. (March/April 2002). Preparing for culturally responsive teaching. *Journal of Teacher Education*, 53(2), 106-116. Retrieved from <https://www.cwu.edu/teaching-learning/sites/cts.cwu.edu/teaching-learning/files/documents/PreparingforCulturallyResponsiveTeaching,%20Geneva%20Gay.pdf>

Teaching Tolerance. (n.d) Culture in the Classroom. Retrieved from <https://www.tolerance.org/professional-development/culture-in-the-classroom>

Component 2

Staehr Fenner, D. & Snyder, S. (2017). *Unlocking English learners' potential: Strategies for making content accessible*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin. (Chapter 2); Retrieved from https://us.corwin.com/sites/default/files/upm-binaries/102394_Fenner_Unlocking_CH2_sample.pdf

Component 3

Breiseth, L., Robertson, K., & Lafond, S. (2011). A guide for engaging ELL families: Twenty strategies for school leaders. Retrieved from <http://www.colorincolorado.org/guide/guide-engaging-ell-families-twenty-strategies-school-leaders>

Course Policies and Refunds

Extending a Course Assignment Due Date

Notify the facilitators and your district coordinator (if you have enrolled through your district) *as soon as possible* if life events impact your participation in this course. We may be able to offer you an extension for an assignment or component. This will not be possible if you wait until the course is near completion. Participants who cannot complete the course will not be able to take it at a later date without completing a new registration. As the heart of the course is the PLC discussions, the course components are most effective when completed according to the timeline.

Course Refund

A refund will be provided for the course with a written request up until 5:00 p.m. EST on the business day before the start of the course. No refunds for the course will be given once the course begins.