

SUPPLEMENTAL ONE

Seminar Overview (Two Week Seminar in Washington, DC)

Cultural awareness has become, in many settings, the practice of acknowledging and respecting the various groups of people in our world. These generalized and often overly simplified depictions of culture homogenize groups of people and efface individuality and differences that are so important to our identities. The generalizations often become perceptual barriers as individuals attempt to provide leadership within their organizations and/or community. The kinds of relationships needed between individuals have little chance of developing to their full potential when these generalizations control our thoughts and actions. This seminar will broaden the cultural perspectives of students and equip them with ways to think about, discuss, and express more informed opinions regarding notions of culture. They will become better equipped as advocates for a better society and world.

The intellectual structure of the seminar will be developed through the use of a conceptual framework focusing on what might be called the “major Questions” approach. Human societies have had to be concerned both with the process of nurturing their citizens and with determining what would constitute the particular set of characteristics (intellectual and social) they should acquire in their development so that they might function efficaciously within the social institutions that mark that society.

An individual’s preparation for life and leadership in a more globally diverse society may indeed consist of reflective processes to better understand who they are, why they think about others the way that they do, and how to make any needed change. Thus, it seems reasonable to assert that the “liberally educated person” should be provided with the educational opportunity to examine these issues in a deliberate, intensive, and sustained manner.

- The activities associated with the course should result in students who are:
- able to articulate major attributes that determine one’s identity;
- conscious of the political, economic, and social-cultural factors that affect the issues/challenges;
- familiar with the philosophic perspectives that serve as the conceptual grounds for positions on such issues;
- able to analyze the issues/challenges and gain a clearer understanding of what is involved in such issues, including conceptual clarity of major ideas related to these issues, and familiarity with the major “positions” on such issues; and
- as a consequence of the analysis and critical scrutiny of these ideas and positions, students will be able to develop reasoned positions on these significant issues.

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The “Major Questions: Leading to Engaged Leaders.

1. What are the major attributes that determine one’s identity and why?
2. What are the political, economic, and social-cultural factors that impact one’s thinking about differences among individuals?
3. Given the answers to the first two questions, how have your thoughts about diversity, inclusion and engaged leadership changed and how will your answers cause you to become a stronger advocate for a better society and world, for all?

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Week One

Day One

Introductions/Seminar Requirements/Topics: Identity & Leadership

Day Two

Site Visits: Morning and afternoon site visits to two leaders within organizations (to be determined), representing different perspectives on leadership and who they are as a leader and person.

Day Three

Reflecting on site visits/Case Study Applications/Writing Drafts on questions one.

Day Four

Philosophy of Diversity Questionnaire with discussion/Afternoon site visit with Chief Diversity Officer or Diversity Advocate (to be determined).

Day Five

Reflective group work (composing ideas focused on week’s experiences and discussing in small groups for clarity and growth)/Question One Due by 4 PM.

*Paper will be emailed back to students over the weekend. Questions and readings regarding the political, economic, and social-cultural factors will also be sent as a introduction for Monday’s bus tour.

Week Two

Day One

Bus tour of DC and surrounding area to compare social stratification issues. Lunch stop at organization (to be determined) with speaker to discuss issue and their work.

Day Two

Site Visits: Morning and afternoon site visits with two leaders within two organizations (to be determined), representing different (hopefully Democratic and Republican) perspectives regarding an approach to address the social stratification of our society. (Discussions will include economic and social-cultural factors).

Day Three

Reflecting on site visits/Case Study Applications/Writing Drafts on questions two.

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Day Four

Work on completion of Philosophical Platform/One on One consultations with me/
Dinner celebration with community and TWC leaders/Presentation by selected
speaker.

Day Five

Individual presentations of platforms with group discussion/leave for home after
1:00 PM/Platform Due by Monday 4 PM.