



Interrupting the Spiral of Injustice

Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course is designed to equip educators with the knowledge and tools to delve into the complex concept of the Spiral of Injustice and its power as a tool to understand our world. Through a series of in-depth case studies, participants will gain insights into the inspiring work of individuals and organizations dedicated to breaking the cycle of injustice. By the end of the course, educators will be prepared to create an engaging unit of study that enables students to explore this powerful framework and discover their own potential to contribute to a more just world.

This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing new knowledge in using the Spiral of Injustice framework to promote critical thinking, social awareness, and student empowerment through justice-oriented instruction.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Understand why the Spiral of Injustice framework was developed and its importance in creating a more just world.
2. Analyze how language and avoidance perpetuate "othering" and understand how coalitions can be tools to interrupt the Spiral.
3. Analyze the role of discrimination, violence, and elimination in perpetuating the Spiral of Injustice.
4. Explore case studies of Bill Wassmuth and Peace First to understand how individuals and coalitions disrupt the Spiral of Injustice through community action and advocacy.
5. Investigate case studies of the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security, and Dolores Huerta to identify effective strategies for interrupting the Spiral of Injustice.
6. Apply the principles of Universal Design for Learning to develop essential questions, enduring understandings, and standards-aligned goals for a Spiral of Injustice unit plan.
7. Integrate a service-learning project to guide students in transferring their learning.
8. Design formative and summative assessments and sequence lessons to measure and inspire student engagement.

Modules

- Module 1: Orientation & Introduction to the Spiral of Injustice, Quiz 1
- Module 2: Unraveling the Spiral: Language and Avoidance, Quiz 2
- Module 3: Unraveling the Spiral: Escalation of Injustice – Discrimination, Violence, and Elimination, Quiz 3
- Module 4: Case Studies in Interrupting the Spiral of Injustice (Part 1), Quiz 4
- Module 5: Case Studies in Interrupting the Spiral of Injustice (Part 2), Quiz 5



- Module 6: Designing a Unit Plan Featuring the Spiral of Injustice, Quiz 6
- Module 7: Service-Learning and the Culminating Project, Quiz 7
- Module 8: Creating Assessments and Sequencing the Unit Plan, Quiz 8

Grading

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

Format

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.