

Chapter 7

Using the Medicine Wheel for Curriculum Design in Intercultural Communication: Rethinking Learning Outcomes

Marcella LaFever
University of the Fraser Valley, Canada

ABSTRACT

In December 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada released its calls to action for reconciliation related to the oppressive legacy of Indian Residential Schools. Required actions include increased teaching of intercultural competencies and incorporation of indigenous ways of knowing and learning. Intercultural Communication as a discipline has primarily been developed from euro-centric traditions based in three domains of learning referred to as Bloom's taxonomy. Scholars and practitioners have increasingly identified problems in the way that intercultural competency is taught. The decolonization of education is implicated in finding solutions to those problems. Indigenization of education is one such effort. This chapter posits the Medicine Wheel, a teaching/learning framework that has widespread use in indigenous communities, for use in instructing intercultural communication. Bloom's taxonomy of the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective domains, is missing the fourth quadrant of the Medicine Wheel, spiritual. Examples of the spiritual quadrant are offered.

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-5225-1732-0.ch007

INTRODUCTION

What good is education without love?'

On December 15, 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) released its final report (Honouring the truth, 2015) and a list of 94 calls to action related to Canada's responsibility to engage in measures for reconciliation related to the oppressive legacy of colonization that was manifested in the institution of Indian Residential Schools (Calls to Action, 2015). The calls to action are addressed to all sectors of Canadian institutions, governing bodies and citizens in the areas of:

- Child welfare,
- Health,
- Language and culture,
- The justice system,
- Public service and
- Education.

Call to action number 62 asks educational institutions to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms and to utilize Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods in classrooms (Calls to Action, 2015, p.7). Additionally, call to action number 63, addressed to the Council of Ministers of Education, asks the ministers to maintain an annual commitment to Aboriginal education issues. Item 63.3 specifically calls for building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect (p. 7). There are also five calls to action for skills-based training in:

- Intercultural competency,
- Conflict resolution,
- Human rights, and
- Anti-racism directed to lawyers;
- Law, medical and nursing schools;
- Training for public servants and for business management and staff (pp. 3, 7,10).

Intercultural communication as an academic discipline has the opportunity to contribute a great deal to meeting all of these calls to action. Indigenization of post-secondary education, specifically in teaching intercultural communication, is one way that instructors can meet this challenge. The focus of this chapter is to provide a framework for engaging in this task.

30 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: www.igi-global.com/chapter/using-the-medicine-wheel-for-curriculum-design-in-intercultural-communication/171814

Related Content

Identifying the Meta-Forms of Situations: A Case-Study in Computational Semiotics

Yair Neuman, Yochai Cohen, Dan Assaf and Marcel Danesi (2017). *International Journal of Semiotics and Visual Rhetoric* (pp. 56-71).

www.irma-international.org/article/identifying-the-meta-forms-of-situations/183641

Ubuntu Philosophy and Lived Experience: A Case of Bakalanga People of Botswana

Philip Bulawa and Mavis B. Mhlauli (2021). *Understanding Ubuntu for Enhancing Intercultural Communications* (pp. 28-41).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/ubuntu-philosophy-and-lived-experience/276720

Trauma and the Indexicality of the Missing Sign: Redaction of the Oral Mishnah as a Sign of Trauma

Joel West (2021). *International Journal of Semiotics and Visual Rhetoric* (pp. 72-82).

www.irma-international.org/article/trauma-and-the-indexicality-of-the-missing-sign/272970

The Face is (Not) Like a Mirror: The Advertising Rhetoric of the Catoptric Metaphor from the Art of Physiognomy to the Science of Facial Expression

Devon Schiller (2017). *International Journal of Semiotics and Visual Rhetoric* (pp. 29-54).

www.irma-international.org/article/the-face-is-not-like-a-mirror/191270

A Milieu of Taboo: Threat, Avoidance, Power, and Control

Chelsea Brass-Rosenfield (2022). *Handbook of Research on Communication Strategies for Taboo Topics* (pp. 26-50).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/a-milieu-of-taboo/300964