

## **Interdisciplinary Reading Group**

### ***Planning a social justice pedagogy reading group for next year***

Melissa Forbes and Victoria Reuter

As of now, our plan is to begin with *On Being Included: Racism and Diversity in Institutional Life*. Sara Ahmed's deconstruction of diversity rhetorics in higher education. We plan to meet three times over the fall semester and select our next book or topic as a group from there. To assist in that selection, we created this [Google Doc](#) of antiracist pedagogy resources; it is a work in progress, obviously, and we will continue adding to it as we continue to research and learn. Because the fall will be spent focusing on understanding problems, for the spring semester we are inclined to focus on possibilities for solutions. I believe we are leaning toward *Race Talk and the Conspiracy of Silence: Understanding and Facilitating Difficult Dialogues on Race* by Derald Wing Sue or *Intellectual Empathy: Critical Thinking for Social Justice* by Maureen Linker.

We have recently uncovered an ongoing pedagogy reading group run through the education department, and we are in the process of determining whether our group would be a part of that or something separate. This will guide our decisions on if/how to promote our sessions. We've also been speaking with Tucker Little from Experiential Education, who has shown strong interest in the project. He suggested we try a [Jeffersonian dinner](#) to help open up dialogue among faculty, and we will move forward with planning that over the summer.

We have purchased six books that are not available through the library but will serve a supplemental material and potential texts for subsequent semesters. The receipt is attached.

My faculty ID is

## **Composition-Specific Discussion**

For something geared specifically to instructors in first-year writing, we believe that a lighter touch would be better than a formal reading group, given that the grading load for first-year writing is fairly onerous and the instructors who teach it are often adjuncts. A roundtable with a few article-based handouts to serve as discussion starters would be a great start, and if people are interested we can either hold more sessions in that format or move to something a bit more structured. I have had success in the past with pedagogy groups in which we choose a topic ahead of time, everyone chooses their own reading, and then we share what we've learned when we get together.

## **Next steps**

- ? Meet with DiVonna Stebick to discuss existing group
  - o Promote reading group based on the outcome of this discussion
- ? Meet with Tucker Little to move forward with planning Jeffersonian Dinner
- ? Follow procedures to register reading group and receive funding for book purchase
- ? Reach out to Kathryn Rhett and first-year writing instructors

Again, thank you so much for this opportunity. We're very much looking forward to the fall semester!

Best wishes,

Melissa Forbes (and Victoria Reuter, in absentia)

<antiracist books order.png>