CREATING AN INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM

Edmund Adjapong, Ph.D.
Educational Studies Department
@KingAdjapong

CHECK - IN

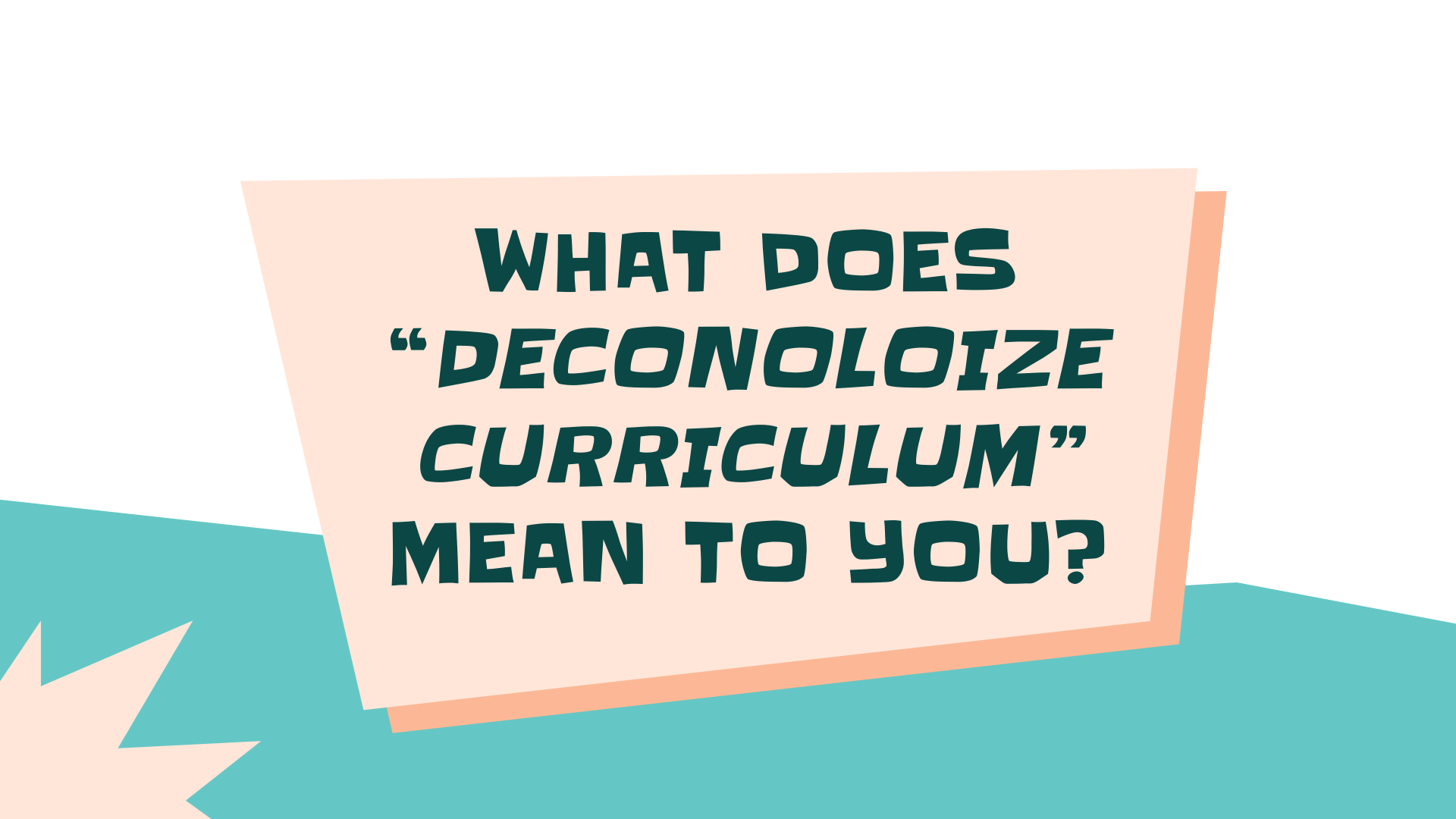On a scale of 1-10 how are you doing today?

INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM

promotes diversity and teaches students about the myriad of identities in their communities.

DECOLONIZE CURRICULUM

creates _**spaces**_ and _**resources**_ for a dialogue among all members of the university on how to imagine and envision all _**cultures**_ and _**knowledge systems**_

INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM

- Inclusive curriculum promotes diversity and teaches students about the myriad of identities in their communities.

    - Focused on including diverse perspectives in curricula

    - Learning is situated in context to support student understanding

    - Focus on social and emotional well-being of students
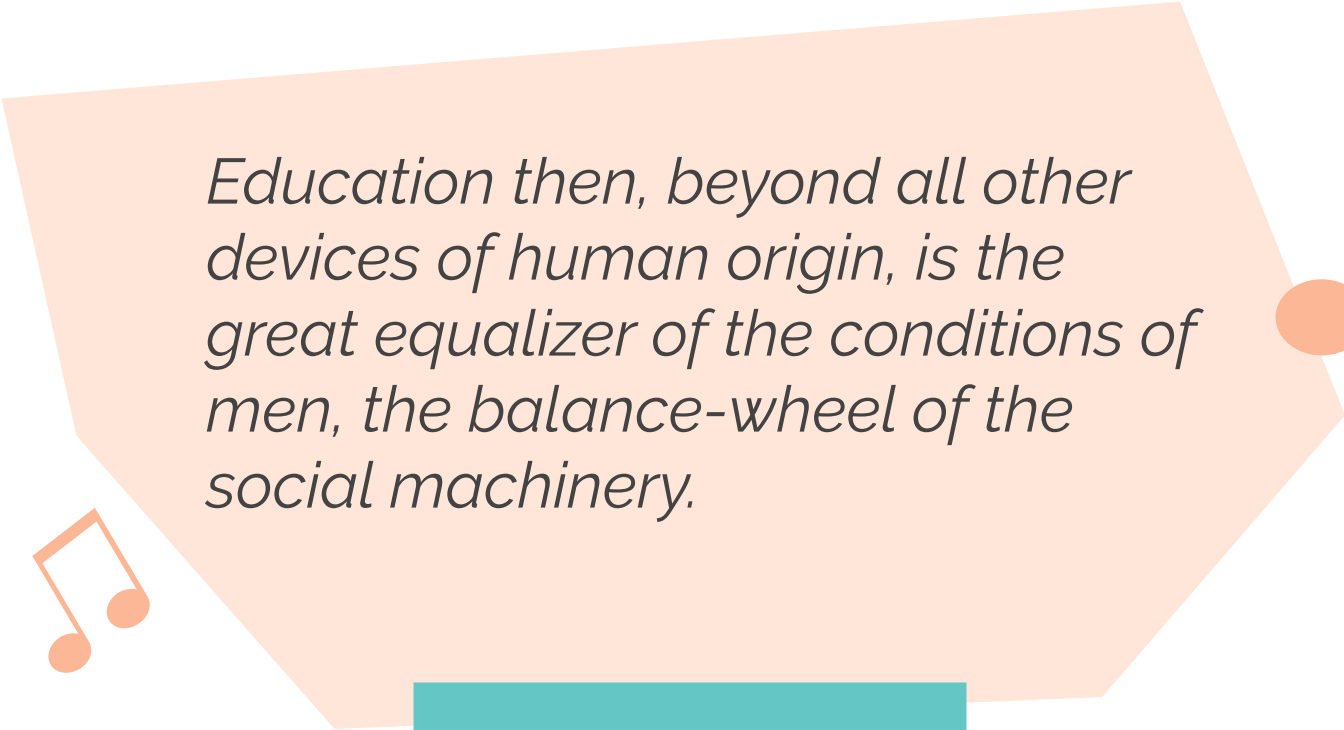
What does "deconoloize curriculum" mean to you?

DECOLONIZED CURRICULUM

- Decolonizing the curriculum means creating **_spaces_** and **_resources_** for a dialogue among all members of the university on how to imagine and envision all **_cultures_** and **_knowledge systems_** in the curriculum and pedagogy.

- Acknowledgement that educational systems have contributed to systemic oppression of historically marginalized groups.

- Requires a commitment to eradicating systems of oppression from faculty

- Requires faculty to reimagine courses from pedagogy to assessment

- Encourages students to take action against systems of oppression

History of Public Education

- Horace Mann - Education reformer responsible for public schools (1800's)
- Purpose of public schools to *improve society*
- Education was looked at as the solution to social ills
- During the industrial revolution schools began to adopt the factory model
- Public schools were meant to instill common values among youth, especially those who were immigrants for children of immigrants
- School reformers focused on systemizing schools to ensure that all students shared the same experience

Education then, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of the conditions of men, the balance-wheel of the social machinery.

-Horace Mann

The Carlisle School

The Carlisle School

"The noble experiment"
Carlos Montezuma

Decolonizing Curriculum Starts With Us!

- Educators have a responsibility to dismantle racism that is built and wired into schooling, testing, response to behavior, and curriculum.

- The first step is to address our own role in perpetuating and replicating the **culture of power**.

- Explore your **Teaching Ideology** as it relates to your students and their abilities.

  - How do you view student success?

  - What are your expectations for your students?

  - Do students have a voice and do they have a say in their learning?

  - How do students traditionally demonstrate their understanding in your courses?

Strategies for Decolonizing Curriculum

In an attempt to decolonize the classroom, one can make many changes:

- diversify materials and content
- teach to learning outcomes that address power and social justice
- design assessments that allow diverse students to demonstrate mastery in diverse ways;
- involve students in the creation of knowledge, content, and curriculum;
- embrace diverse language usage in interactions, writing and tests;
- involve oneself at the institutional, local, state and national levels to advocate for equity.

STRATEGIES FOR DECOLONIZING CURRICULUM

Evaluate classroom policies and expectations for inclusivity.
- For the virtual learning environment, are students required to have their video cameras on? Not all students will be comfortable with or able to turn on their video cameras for the whole class session, for a variety of reasons

Suggest multiple options for students to demonstrate their learning.
- Writing-based assignments - offer creative writing, video essays, or podcast options with short analysis in addition to academic papers
- Problem-based assignments - allow for collaborative hands-on projects, simulations, multimedia projects in addition to standard exams.

Ensure representation of diverse perspectives.
- Which voices and perspectives are usually included in your syllabus and discipline. Then work to intentionally incorporate perspectives that are often marginalized or left out of the conversation.
- Consider including contemporary scholars who hold diverse social identities through videos, articles, and guest lectures.
- Talk to students about barriers to inclusion, invite them to investigate and add new perspectives, and encourage them to contribute their own perspectives to the course.

STRATEGIES FOR DECOLONIZING CURRICULUM

Consider how much work is assigned.

- While it may seem that students now have more time on their hands to focus on school, many of them are providing care for younger siblings, elder relatives, or community members;
- actively searching for employment opportunities; working (either remotely or in-person) while attending school
- navigating mental health challenges
- trying to make sense of an uncertain world
- grieving the loss of loved ones

Ways that I Decolonize my Curriculum

- Student choice and student voice
  - At the beginning of each semester students provide feedback on syllabus
  - During the virtual learning environment, I have class discussions about assignments and amount of assignments
- Various student centered assignments
  - Multimedia digital storytelling assignment
  - Twitter as self-reflection
- Diverse guest speakers
  - Intentionally invite colleagues who share varied perspectives on education issues
- Focus on students' mental well-being
  - Daily check in with students
  - Daily guided meditation with students
- Teach decolonizing frameworks as it relates to your field
  - Hip-Hop Pedagogy

Kimani Key @kitskey · Oct 29, 2019
As someone who found fighting my passions thru activism, learning about YPAR and how children could utilize it in their communities, really ties in connecting material in the classroom to the real world #hiphopedshu
1   1   2
Show this thread

Esther @estherrch0 · Oct 29, 2019
definitely agree when Prof. Adjapong said that we have to be able to teach young people to be critical of systems by informing them about how the system work so that in return they know how to dismantle how systems operate #hiphopedshu
1   5

Nicole Stephens @NicoStephens7 · Dec 4, 2018
Prison should be a way to re-socialize people to make sure they can function properly and safely in society, not a way to oppress and continue the cycle of institutionalization. We complain about crime and then don't give people resources to change. #HipHopEd #HipHopEdSHU
1   3
Show this thread

Shannon Elizabeth Lawless @shan_elizabeth · Nov 19, 2019
The first step in giving students an equal opportunity in our classrooms is to break down gender and race stereotypes. #HipHopEdShu
1   3

DISCUSSION

Think about a course that you think and consider the following questions:

- Do the policies take into account the different challenges students may encounter, especially during a pandemic?

- Does the content provide diverse perspectives, including those that are often marginalized?

- Do students have the opportunity to demonstrate their learning in more than one way?

- Are the assessments designed for improvement or only to evaluate mastery of content?