

# “Leveling the Playing Field”: Creating Inclusive Learning Spaces (Part 2)

Presenters:

Senior Lecturer David Yockel, Jr. (University Studies)

Associate Professor mari jaye blanchard (CAD)

Tuesday, May 14

1:00-1:50PM

Wallace – Room 3440

**Welcome! Please take a seat.**

# “Leveling the Playing Field” Creating Inclusive Learning Spaces (Part 2)

## Our Goals:

- Define the **what & why** of **inclusive** pedagogy.
- Outline some essential elements of **how** to **implement** an **inclusive** pedagogy.
- Reflect on and **investigate** the **inclusiveness** of **our own teaching practices and learning spaces**.
- *Gain additional strategies and frameworks for creating inclusive learning spaces.*

## How would *you* define an “inclusive” learning space?

- Please spend a minute (or two) to **think about how you might define the characteristics of an inclusive classroom/pedagogy.**
- There will be some time for you to share your thoughts with the larger group, if you'd like.

## Inclusive Learning Spaces

- *Content to be determined...*

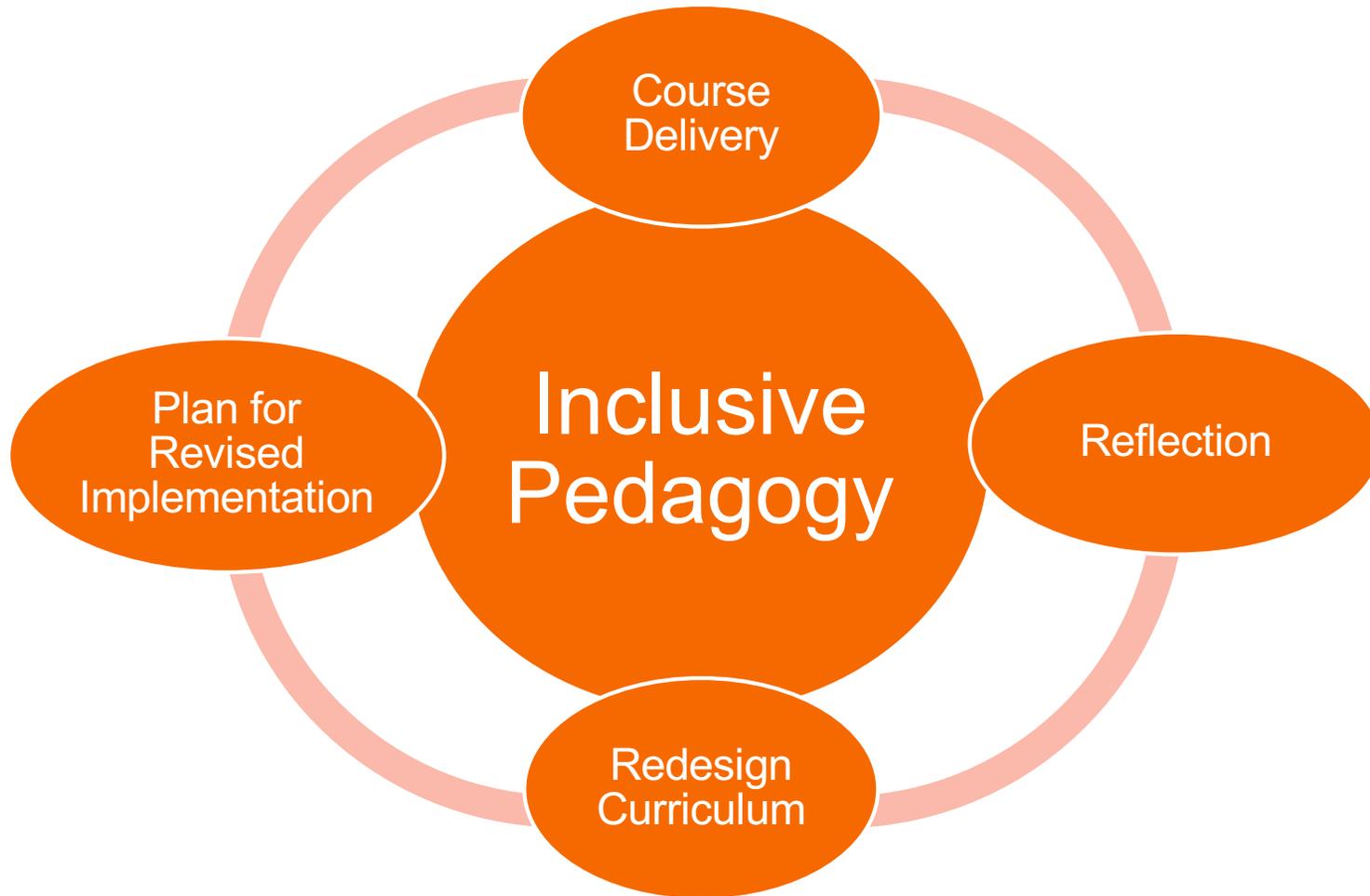
## Inclusive Pedagogy: A working definition

- “Inclusive teaching involves deliberately cultivating a learning environment where **all students are treated equitably**, have **equal access to learning**, and feel valued and supported in their learning...”

## Inclusive teaching also...

- “...attends to **social identities** and seeks to **change** the ways **systemic inequities** shape dynamics in **teaching-learning spaces**, **affect individuals’ experiences** of those spaces, and **influence course and curriculum design.**”

(University of Michigan – [Center for Research on Teaching & Learning](#))



## Benefits of Inclusive Pedagogy

Through Inclusive Pedagogy, faculty members can:

- **Engage diversity** to create dynamic, engaging, and relevant individual and group learning experiences.

(adapted from Salazar et al., 2009)

## Benefits of Inclusive Pedagogy

Through Inclusive Pedagogy, faculty members can:

- Establish an environment that **challenges each student to achieve academically at high levels**, and furthers their path to academic success.

(adapted from Salazar et al., 2009)

## Benefits of Inclusive Pedagogy

Through Inclusive Pedagogy, faculty members can:

- **Constructively handle difficult moments in the classroom** when controversial material is discussed, and classroom discussions become heated.

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## Benefits of Inclusive Pedagogy

Through Inclusive Pedagogy, faculty members can:

- **Co-create and foster a collegial environment** in which students feel comfortable sharing their ideas, thoughts, and questions.

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Through Inclusive Pedagogy, faculty members can:

- **Support the success of all students** regardless of background and ability.

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## Benefits of Inclusive Pedagogy

Through Inclusive Pedagogy, faculty members can:

- **Engage diversity** to create dynamic, engaging, and relevant individual and group learning experiences.
- Establish an environment that **challenges each student to achieve academically at high levels**, and furthers their path to academic success.
- **Constructively handle difficult moments in the classroom** when controversial material is discussed, and classroom discussions become heated.
- **Co-create and foster a collegial environment** in which students feel comfortable sharing their ideas, thoughts, and questions.
- **Support the success of all students** regardless of background and ability.

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Critical  
Engagement  
of Difference

Structured  
Interactions

Academic  
Belonging

Transparency

Flexibility

**Principles of Inclusive Pedagogy**

# Critical Engagement of Difference

Acknowledge students' different identities and experiences; leverage student diversity as an asset for learning.

## Structured Interactions

Develop protocols or processes that support equitable access and contributions to interactive elements of the learning environment and disrupt patterns that reinforce systemic inequities.

## Academic Belonging

Cultivate students' sense of connection and ability to see themselves as active members in the discipline or a community of scholars.

## Transparency

Clearly communicate with students about expectations and norms; explain purpose, task, and criteria for learning activities.

## Flexibility

Respond and adapt to students' changing and diverse circumstances; engage empathetically with student needs, both emerging and persistent; balance intentional design and commitment to providing accommodations.

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Link to [U of Michigan's CRTL website](#)

## Essential Elements of Inclusive Courses

- Are the learning experiences accessible for all students?
- Do the course policies take into account the different challenges students may encounter?
- Does the course content provide diverse perspectives, including those that are often marginalized?
- Are the assessments designed for improvement?
- Do students have the opportunity to demonstrate learning in more than one way?

# Reflection Exercise

Investigating Our  
Own Classroom  
Environments &  
Pedagogical Choices

Please spend the next few minutes (3-5) to reflect on your own pedagogy.

- How have you **successfully implemented** an inclusive pedagogy?
- What are the **biggest difficulties** in maintaining an inclusive learning environment?

Now, discuss your reflections with the people at your table and be ready to share the group's major takeaways with all workshop participants.

# Successes

# Difficulties

# Additional Resources

- **Cornell University's Center for Teaching Innovation**  
<https://teaching.cornell.edu/resource/inclusive-teaching>
- **Dartmouth Center for the Advancement of Learning**  
<https://dcal.dartmouth.edu/resources/teaching-methods/inclusive-teaching>
- **DePaul University's Teaching Commons**  
<https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching-guides/inclusive-teaching/Pages/default.aspx>
- **New York University**  
<https://www.nyu.edu/life/global-inclusion-and-diversity/learning-and-development/toolkits/faculty-digital-inclusion/inclusive-curriculum-design.html>
- **UC Berkeley Center for Teaching & Learning**  
<https://teaching.berkeley.edu/teaching-guides/advancing-equity-and-inclusion>
- **University of Michigan's Center for Research on Learning & Teaching**  
<https://crlt.umich.edu/multicultural-teaching/inclusive-teaching-strategies>

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**Thank you for your participation.  
Enjoy the symposium!**

**mari jaye blanchard (mjbp@rit.edu)**

Associate Professor, School of Film & Animation

**David Yockel, Jr. (dwyuwp@rit.edu)**

Senior Lecturer, Writing Across the Curriculum Coordinator