

Development of a Course in Chicano/ Latino Psychology: An Academic Odyssey

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ABSTRACT

This paper describes the development of a course in Chicano/Latino Psychology along with the objectives, content, and activities associated with the course. In addition, I describe my 2-year odyssey in encountering and negotiating the academic politics, resistances, and barriers that were placed before me in gaining university approval to teach this course. Based on my experiences, I will attempt to provide recommendations for overcoming the maze of academic politics for others who wish to offer similar courses, as well as future trends in designing courses in Chicano/Latino Psychology.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Brian W. McNeill is currently an Associate Professor and Director of Training/Associate Chairperson for the Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling Psychology at Washington State University. Dr. McNeill's research, teaching, and service interests are influenced by his mixed Chicano and Anglo ethnicity and include clinical supervision, the recruitment, retention, and training needs of ethnic/racial minority students in graduate psychology programs, and the role of ethnic identity in attitudes towards counseling services. He developed the first course in Chicano/Latino Psychology to be taught at Washington State University. Dr. McNeill resides in Moscow, Idaho with his family.