

Special Topics in Adult Education: Women, Violence and Literacy Learning - Impacts and Options

AEC1131 HF Winter 2007

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Course Introduction

Outline

Children and adults' experiences of violence are widespread and have major implications for teaching and learning in all settings, particularly in adult literacy. This course will explore societal assumptions about diverse forms of violence and oppression, examine research on the impact of violence on learning, and explore ways to address these impacts in your setting.

One of the best ways to develop and express a complex understanding of the impact of violence on the self and on learning is to experience holistic educational approaches. Holistic educational approaches draw on diverse knowledge sources to promote learning, such as emotional, physical, conceptual, and spiritual knowledge. The holistic activities and assignments in this course provide you with an opportunity to experience and reflect on the potential of learning using all your senses. You will also have the opportunity to conceptualize educational practices that take into account the impacts of violence on learning with the goal to support learning for all.

Course Intentions

1. To deepen understanding of issues arising out of the impacts of violence on learning.
2. To strengthen the diversity and complexity of educational responses to the impacts of violence on learning.
3. To provide an environment for reflection on teaching and learning to support learning in the context of violence.
4. To provide holistic learning experiences and encourage reflection on their value to support learning for survivors of violence.
5. To develop community amongst those seeking to strengthen educational practices on this issue.
6. To increase the numbers of those engaged in a movement to acknowledge the impact of violence on learning and strengthen opportunities for successful learning in any setting.
7. To create materials to teach others about learning and violence.

Key Texts

Horsman, J. (1999/2000). *Too Scared to learn: Women, violence and education*. Toronto: McGilligan Books, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

OPTIONAL:

Morrish, E., Horsman, J. & Hofer, J. (2002). *Take on the challenge: A sourcebook from the women, violence, and adult education project*. Boston: World Education.

Weekly Plan

January 10th Week 1 – Getting started

January 17th Week 2 – Self-care and fears about opening this “can of worms”

January 24th Week 3 - Exploring the complexity of violence

January 31st Week 4 - Breaking silences revealing the hidden impacts

February 7th Week 5 – Exploring control, connection and meaning

February 14th Week 6 - Bridging divides between literacy and therapy

February 21st Week 7 – Holistic learning: Enhancing learning through the power of spirit and emotion

February 28th Week 8 – Holistic learning: Recognizing connections between body and mind

March 7th Week 9 – Bringing the whole self together to learn

March 14th March Break

March 21st.Week 10 – Creating educational change/Growing a movement together

March 28th Week 11 - Sharing materials/key themes

April 4th Week 12 – Closing