

UAA College of Arts & Science Liberal Studies Program

Mission

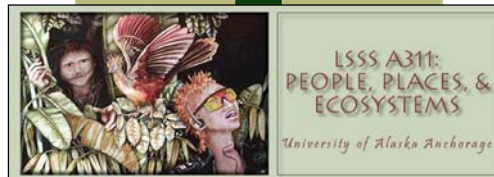
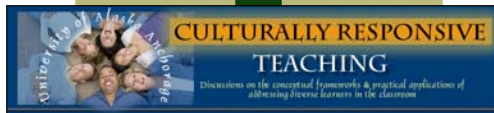
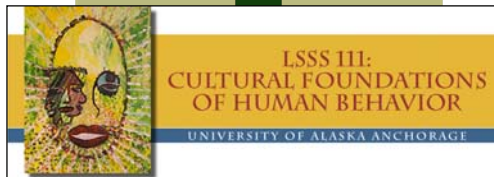
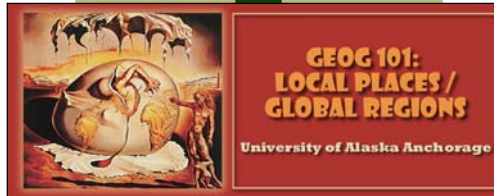
Our mission is to offer innovative courses for future teachers, K-12, as part of several bachelor's degree programs offered by the UAA College of Education. We work in cooperation with the UAA MAU's involved in teacher education: Kenai Peninsula College, Kodiak College, and MatSu College. Our courses emphasize innovative interdisciplinary course content (e.g., courses on geology and astronomy, political science and history, anthropology and psychology, and more).

Our Focus

We focus on goals 2 and 5 of the AEIN project: creating state of the art technology-supported, distance-delivered courses in content areas for future teachers and engaging in dialogue regarding culturally responsive teaching and learning, with particular emphasis on Alaska Natives. We participate in national conferences on distance delivery education and hold monthly faculty discussions regarding culturally responsive teaching.

Our Process

- We convene small groups of UAA, KPC, and Kodiak College faculty to meet on a regular basis for the purposes of studying and discussing culturally responsive teaching techniques.
- We attended and presented aspects of our work at the nationally renowned Lilly Conference in California, a professional development event aimed at improving teaching by encouraging the thoughtful use of informational technology in the classroom.
- We work with UAA's instructional design staff to create online courses that are well-designed, pedagogically sound, and that foster interactive learning.



Our Resources

There have been many individuals and groups involved in the work that we are doing:

- The BLS faculty in Anchorage, Kenai, Mat-Su, and Kodiak
- The eMedia services group in Anchorage, which has provided significant technological support for our online courses throughout the past year
- Lee Henrikson, Jack Detzel, and Kathi Baldwin, who taught an excellent week-long training workshop for distance education faculty in the spring of 2007
- Chris Sturm and Teresa Derrickson, who have provided one-on-one e-Live and Blackboard support for many of us
- Ann Jache, who has facilitated our faculty discussions on culturally-responsive instruction
- Josh Pheley, a senior in the BLS program who developed a learning unit describing culturally-responsive techniques used in the BLS program
- Program administrators from the different UAA MAU's who have arranged opportunities for BLS faculty to meet, talk, learn, and share ideas with each other

Our Learning

- Culturally responsive teaching requires intentional self reflexivity
- Interdisciplinary courses increase Praxis II student scores dramatically

Our Questions

- How can we use technology in culturally-responsive ways?
- How do we identify and fully exploit the pedagogical advantages that online teaching presents for us?
- How can we be more transparent and intentional about the instructional techniques we are using?

