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Subject: Teaching Tuesdays - Anti-Racist Classroom by Marie Hardin and Gary Abdullah
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Welcome to Teaching Tuesdays in our first week back on campus in spring 2021. This week the Teaching Tuesdays column offers strategies for creating an anti-racist classroom. Dean Marie Hardin and Assistant Dean Gary Abdullah write about being actively anti-racist and propose five steps to empower all students in the classroom. Enjoy this critically important piece.

Save the date: Teaching Tuesdays Webinar, March 2 at 3 pm

Good news. Our Teaching Tuesdays initiative is expanding into a **college webinar series** to discuss important issues affecting our teaching and our disciplines. First up, we will be talking about how our work in the classroom can prepare students for challenges in the media and comm professions. In particular, we will focus our discussion on gender dynamics in the field and how we as faculty can work to address gender issues in the classroom that can prepare our students to address gender imbalance in the workplace. Our first webinar, coming up on March 2, 3:00-4:30 pm, will be run by Rebecca Geiger, assistant director of the Penn State Gender Equity Center. Mark your calendars to join us for **“Gender Expressions: Promoting Positive Gender Dynamics from the Academic to the Professional World.”**

Do you have an idea for an upcoming webinar? Email me (Denise Bortree) at dsb177@psu.edu.

Academic Integrity Module (Info from Team G)

To assist faculty with effective integration of academic integrity in remote and online courses, a new student oriented module has been created for instructors to easily import into their Canvas site via Canvas Commons. This module provides students direct access to resources that explain what Academic Integrity is and why it is important. Assessments to confirm students' basic understanding of academic integrity are included. Individual faculty members, colleges or campuses may tailor this generic module to address specific needs.

To access the module, sign into Canvas, click on the Commons link in the left menu and then [go to the module](#) titled “Academic Integrity Resources at Penn State”. Click the “import/download” button to integrate it into a course of your choice. Once the module is

imported into a Canvas course, the instructor or designer can unpublish any element within the module, or otherwise edit the module to better suit instructor needs.

Page Center Online Event – Feb 24 at 7 pm

Join Dean Marie Hardin and Page Center Board Chair Bill Nielsen as the Page Center honors Tony Fauci, Judy Woodruff, Eugene Robinson, and Bill Heyman at its annual awards event. Hear these distinguished honorees discuss integrity in public communication and the importance of ethics and responsibility in today's society. Faculty and students can [register here](#). The Page Center has created [optional student activities](#) that faculty can use as assignments.

Teaching Tuesdays - Making the ideal into the real: Creating an anti-racist classroom

By Marie Hardin, dean of the Bellisario College, and Gary Abdullah, assistant dean of diversity and inclusion

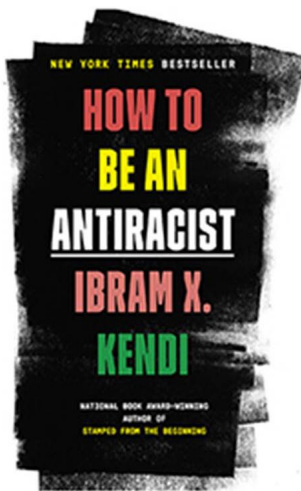
As all of us have had to adjust our (virtual and physical) classrooms during this pandemic, we've all been forced to think deeply about what makes teaching effective for all learners. In the Bellisario College, we are committed to classrooms that allow every student to flourish, and as this column has reminded us, there are many issues to consider in that endeavor.

This month – in which we make a point to recognize and celebrate [African-American history and culture](#) – is also a perfect time to truly focus on our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion. Thinking consciously about creating an anti-racist classroom will help us move toward our ideal.

What is “anti-racism,” and how does that translate into the classroom?

Scholar Ibram X. Kendi, author of "How to be an Antiracist," presents anti-racism as action that opposes racism and promotes racial justice. In other words, it is moving beyond “not being racist.” It means taking steps to ensure that racism is not tolerated and is, in fact, eradicated. It also means thinking more about individual *action* and *practice* as racist (or not), instead of labeling other people, wholesale, with these descriptors.

How does this translate to our teaching? Kendi's characterization of anti-racism suggests that we need to interrogate our own approaches to building our courses, interacting with students, and assessing learning.



How can we start?

Each of us comes to the classroom with a unique vantage point, informed by our experiences. That, in turn, shapes our practices. There is no single path to transforming our teaching into those that integrate anti-racism. Instead, some combination of these four steps can help all of us create the kind of classroom environment that empowers all students. We've adapted them from the [Center for Teaching and Learning at Columbia University](#):

- **Access** *initial strategies for engaging in anti-racist pedagogical practice.* Take a single step. Read an article or review a reliable resource. In doing so, you'll probably be encouraged toward self-reflection. As we know, that kind of time investment is important for teaching.
- **Engage** *with key literature on anti-racist pedagogies.* There are many resources out there, but some are more grounded in what we know about pedagogy and the dynamics of racism than others. We provide some of those resources, below.
- **Identify** *key themes that apply to your work.* As you read, look for one or two ideas or themes that "speak" to you.
- **Acquire** *further self-education in those areas.* Read some more. Talk to experts. Try some ideas. And don't make the perfect the enemy of the good. This is a journey!

Finally, we add a fifth step:

- **Share** *your path with your colleagues.* Anti-racist pedagogy is a shared enterprise. What you learn and then share will help others. We can all learn from our colleagues, too. Let's talk about our discoveries, our struggles and our teaching journey.



Helpful resources

Click [here](#) for a page of resources, developed by our [Office for Educational Equity](#), that will help you get started on **Access** and **Engage**. Take a minute to scroll through it. Choose an article or a link. We recommend scrolling to “Antiracist teaching” and taking a look at the resources there, from the “Syllabus Review Tool” to the academic articles that focus on classroom transformation and faculty self-reflection.

We also point you to Penn State Libraries [page of resources](#) on Black Lives Matter and to the Dickinson Law School [“Instructional Resources and Toolkits”](#) – a rich list of additional materials.

Thank you.

We are proud to work among colleagues who are dedicated to creating a learning environment that serves all students and that models the kind of inclusion we all want to see in society. You are preparing future journalists, filmmakers, media producers, and strategic communicators—but you are also preparing citizens for our democracy.

Please share your good work with your colleagues and with us as we all strive, together, for classrooms and a work environment that benefits everyone.

Hope you enjoyed this issue. Keep an eye out for Teaching Tuesdays every Tuesday this semester. Want to read an earlier issue? You can find it in the Faculty/Staff Resources: <https://www.bellisario.psu.edu/faculty-staff-resources/teaching-tuesdays>

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