

Ossello, Lauren

From: Murphy, Corinne <corinne.murphy@wku.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 5:44 PM
To: Keeseey, Susan
Subject: Fwd: Concerns Regarding ELED 355-001

Begin forwarded message:

From: '
Date: February 15, 2022 at 4:33:51 PM CST
To: "Murphy, Corinne" <corinne.murphy@wku.edu>
Cc: "Caboni, Timothy" <caboni@wku.edu>, "Martin, Stephanie" <stephanie.martin@wku.edu>
Subject: Re: Concerns Regarding ELED 355-001

Thank you, I appreciate your response and the attention you are applying to this matter. I am hopeful for the improvement of this situation with your guidance. Dr. Huss emailed our class soon after I heard back from you saying she wishes to speak to us on Thursday about the S/hero assignment. I hope Dr. Huss's reflection can go deeper than just that assignment so issues with her actions can be resolved as well.

Thank you,

From: Murphy, Corinne <corinne.murphy@wku.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 3:01 PM
To:
Cc: Caboni, Timothy; Martin, Stephanie
Subject: Re: Concerns Regarding ELED 355-001

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email. I am most sorry for these experiences; unacceptable at any level. Over the next day, I will review these matters in full and take the necessary action to immediately address and correct the matters. ELED355 is a critical course for our education students. I will reply to you again once I have determined next steps. Again, thank you. It is students, like you, who take the initiative to make sure we offer the best experiences on our campus.

Dean Murphy

Corinne M. Murphy, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Dean & Professor of Special Education
Phone: (270) 745-4664
Website: <http://www.wku.edu/cebs>

From

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 1:32 PM

To: Murphy, Corinne <corinne.murphy@wku.edu>

Cc: Caboni, Timothy <caboni@wku.edu>, Martin, Stephanie <stephanie.martin@wku.edu>

Subject: Concerns Regarding ELED 355-001

Hello,

My name is _____ and I'm a junior in the Elementary Education program here at Western. Currently, I am in my block one courses and have been experiencing some issues with one of my professors. Dr. Huss is teaching our ELED 355-001 Student Diversity class and she has made several comments that I do not believe are professional, appropriate, or represent this program and profession well. Most recently and disturbingly, she has assigned a presentation where we are being asked to dress as a diverse person and present about that person's life. Her wording on the rubric/directions, which I have attached, is to "dress up and become this person." Asking someone to dress as and represent a culture or race outside of their own is wildly inappropriate and is cultural appropriation. Perhaps if Dr. Huss was more educated on diversity, race, and culture she would know this. When concerns about this assignment were brought to Dr. Huss's attention by another student, she made a comment regarding blackface and laughed it off before suggesting we dress as a white person, which clearly contradicts her directions and rubric. Dr. Huss has made other comments regarding students of color and how their culture or race will affect their learning. The most insensitive and uneducated comment Dr. Huss has made, was her conclusion that African American students would learn best orally because their ancestors sang slave songs. This is not word for word, but the message Dr. Huss was sending is clear. There is a Zoom recording with transcriptions giving her exact wording of this comment that I will happily pass along to you all. I can also send the syllabus where Dr. Huss has connected our assignments to standards, for this assignment that section is left blank. These unfortunately, are not her only comments, but I believe they are the most harmful of her aggressions. This is a majority white class, where I am one of maybe three diverse people. I have personally felt extremely uncomfortable with Dr. Huss's out of touch and tone-deaf comments regarding diversity, race, and culture and it makes me quite emotional! The importance of this class is not lost on me, however I feel Dr. Huss's approach is contradictory to what we should be learning. I know I am not the only one feeling this discomfort and having these concerns. I personally do not feel comfortable bringing this issue directly to Dr. Huss because I feel I would not be heard. However, I do feel I would be negligent both as a student and as a Latina to let these aggressions go unnoticed. I hope this issue will be considered and handled carefully and with more compassion, knowledge, and respect than I have seen from Dr. Huss.

Thank you,