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Why Black Psychology in the Introductory Psychology Course?

Linda Rhone

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“An important factor is the need for more psychologists over the next decade, particularly psychologists of color, who can bring perspectives other than Eurocentric.”

Students who take introductory psychology courses should learn about the impact of social, economic, and cultural factors on psychological development. This goal can only be accomplished by the instructor's efforts to infuse Black psychology in the course. Many instructors stand to benefit from a model for presenting this approach, which can be used in a variety of topic areas such as psychology of women, the poor, and other disenfranchised groups. Infusing material on race and culture legitimizes these subjects as relevant areas of investigation for psychologists and permits instructors to make connections among the various units presented during the semester.

An important factor is the need for more psychologists during the next decade, particularly psychologists of color who can bring perspectives other than Eurocentric. Psychologists of color and women can enhance the profession by fully understanding the psychology of Blacks, women, the poor, and other disenfranchised groups.

My presentation will include a definition of Black psychology, a lecture outline, suggestions for infusing Black psychology into the entire course, and curriculum resources that could prove helpful. Student reactions to the presentation of this material are also included.

PRESENTER

Linda Rhone is a Ph.D. student in the Education Policy and Leadership Department at the University of Kansas. At Kansas, Rhone is a Research Assistant on the Eisenhower Project (restructuring teacher education). This is her ninth year in education with experiences as an elementary school teacher, assistant principal, academic adviser, and educational consultant. Rhone also is an adjunct faculty member in social science at Kansas City Kansas Community College. She teaches courses in general psychology, developmental psychology, abnormal psychology, sociology, and social problems.