TIPS FOR CLASSROOM

Homophobia/Transphobia/Heterosexism are strands in a web of interlocking systems of structural inequality that are mutually constitutive and rely upon one another (Razack, 1999)

- Set classroom norms ahead of time; in syllabus
- Let your students introduce themselves and refrain from calling roll based on the class roster
- Let your classes know where all the bathrooms are located (gendered and gender neutral)
- Refrain breaking up into groups or categories based on a two-gender system (e.g., caucusing based on sex should include at least a queer/trans* caucus)
- Do introductions that include gender pronouns and names of choice (many ways to do this: out loud, with notecards, put info in your syllabus)
- Introduce yourself and your pronoun
- Use the pronouns that your students ascribe to themselves (so important)
- Have materials in your office that indicate an affirming space; books, posters, Safezone, stickers
- Notice & let go of assumptions regarding sexuality & gender
- Notice and interrupt sex stereotyping; e.g., that’s just how men are or that’s the difference between men and women
- Interrupt and speak to derogatory language; assumptions that there are only two genders (any kind of statement predicated on this belief), “that’s so gay,” “fag,” etc.
- Welcome controversial conversations but help expand them from binary oppositions; e.g., culture vs. sexuality/gender & religion vs. sexuality/gender are false dichotomies
- If you don’t understand a queer paper/project topic—educate yourself rather than rejecting the student’s ideas….then you have enough information to better respond
• Refrain from outing people in your classes
• Make mistakes & clean them up; Remember to be conscious of what is being done for you & what is being done for the person/people involved
• Prejudice and oppression are not the same thing, both hurt, but there is a power imbalance with regard to oppression and it effects entire groups of people
• Use gender neutral terms; partner, they, them
• Be clear about your role with a student and refer them to campus/Seattle resources (Q Center, GBLTC, ECC/T, Counseling Center, Hall Health, Seattle Counseling Services, NW Network)
• Your silence on a subject is not neutral, you are not neutral