Teaching and teacher education are under attack in unprecedented ways. Policymakers, administrators, parents, and community members all want to see a causal relationship between teaching and student performance/achievement. In a standards driven, high stakes test environment is the construct of a culturally relevant pedagogy a viable, useful, or necessary one? This course rests on the premise that teachers can and do make a difference in the educational (academic, social, cultural) life chances of students and that difference can be enhanced through a culturally relevant pedagogical approach.

In this course we will examine both the macro and micro contexts of teaching and learning and address the following questions:

- What do we mean by good teaching?
- What is a teacher in the public imagination?
- What possibilities exist for reducing academic disparities between/among cultural groups? What role, if any, does teacher education play in improving student learning?

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