



Unpacking the Disciplinary Toolbox: A Workshop on Antiracist Teaching in Introductory Courses

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Thank you to all of my students from ENL 258 over the years and a special thank you to my ENL 258 students from the Spring 2021 semester, who enthusiastically participated in an experimental team teaching assignment on zoom during a pandemic. They are the bravest.



Workshop Structure

- ▶ Brief description of one of my dilemmas to serve as example
- ▶ Example of how I addressed this dilemma
- ▶ Discussion of dilemmas participants have identified
- ▶ Brainstorming of solutions for participants' dilemmas



"If literary studies is to be oriented toward liberation from the hegemony of white supremacist ideologies...it is not enough to expand the types of texts scholars engage with or to work transnationally and comparatively (important as this work remains). We also have to think seriously about how our fields remain racial formations, and about how we can dismantle and replace their compromised foundations" (2).

- Erin Joyce Kappeler. "Free verse, historical poetics, and settler time."
Literature Compass, vol. 17, 2020, pp 1-14.



How can my teaching contribute toward dismantling and replacing the white supremacist foundations of my discipline in intro courses that have the necessary and important goal of helping novice learners gain foundational knowledge and skills in that discipline?

How do I help students unlearn what they haven't learned yet?

One example of a tool from 258 that needed some unsettling

Scansion:

Two households, both alike in dignity

Two **house** | holds, **both** | **alike** | in **dig** | nity

Team teaching assignment

- Historical essays, textbooks, guidebooks, treatises, and anthologies
- All students read and annotated each text on Perusall
- Each team had presenters and discussion leaders
- Each student completed an individual reflection paper on the assignment and the experience of teaching

For discussion:

- ▶ What dilemmas for antiracist teaching have you identified in your own introductory courses?
- ▶ What ideas for addressing or resolving these dilemmas do we have?