Understanding By Design (UbD)– Backwards Design Process

(Modified from Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe, 2002 for Self-Evaluation of RMAIS lessons)

UbD TEMPLATE

Stage 1 – Desired Results	
Content: Topic for Lesson	
Implicit bias in STEM and mentoring—Week 2	
Understanding (s)/goals	Essential Question(s):
Participants will understand that:	• Were you surprised by anything in the IAT? (no pressure to share your
• Everyone has bias that we may not be aware of and these biases can	results)
cause us to act in ways that do not reflect some of the good values we	• Where can bias show up in STEM? Your mentoring relationships?
hold, such as fairness, equality, merit-based rewards, etc.	Academia in general?
• We can reduce the negative impacts of implicit bias by recognizing the	
biases we may have, working to be mindful of our decisions, and	
utilizing some strategies from diversity training.	
• Bias can show up in science, academia, universities, our labs, our	
mentoring relationships, etc.	
Lesson objectives (outcomes):	
Participants will be able to demonstrate:	
KNOWLEDGE:	
 Recognize the particular areas in which you might be biased 	
 Understand how bias shows up in STEM and your career and relationships 	
• SKILLS:	
 Practice acknowledging bias in academic/scientific situations, as described by articles 	
 Think critically about how bias can show up in your mentoring relationships and academia in general 	
 Practice slowing down your decisions and judgements while reading and discussing the articles 	
Stage 2 – Assessment Evidence	
Performance Task(s):	Other Evidence:
Participate in discussion on IAT results (with or without sharing	• Post-assessment at the end of the two weeks of bias modules. Each
particular results)	person does some self-reflection for a couple minutes on the end to
Participate in discussion of articles of gender bias in STEM	think about what they ve learned over the past two weeks and how
	they might incorporate any new information into their decisions and
relationships.	
Stage 3 – Learning Plan	

Learning Activities:

- Introduction/recap of Week 1 of the implicit bias modules.
 - Briefly remind class what implicit bias is, where it comes from, and that understanding our own biases can help us fight them and the norms that reinforce biases.
- Discuss results from the IAT, if people are willing to share. (Treat IAT results like medical information: it's confidential, unless you choose to share.)
 - Did anything surprise you about your results? Do you think taking a test was useful for you? Do you feel motivated to evaluate and change your behavior after taking a test?
 - Balance defensiveness and normalizing bias. Limit defensiveness about your biases by explaining that everyone has biases just because of the society we grew up in. Just because we all have biases doesn't mean it's okay to act on those biases. By recognizing where your bias is, you can be better able to confront it in your life.
 - We have implicit biases, but we can work to form new connections in our minds and we don't have to act on our unconscious reasoning.
- Reminder about strategies for overcoming bias
 - [Explicitly trying to set aside your bias can be an unhelpful practice because it takes so much energy that people just revert to their old biases.
 Instead, we can build structures to limit the ways that bias can influence us. It's hard to make conscious decisions all the time because of limited willpower, so we should make habits that help us to keep our goals.]
 - Perspective taking
 - o Acknowledge your own weaknesses
 - o Slowing down decisions and adding structure
- Discussions on readings (assigned as homework/read before class)
 - Everyone will read all articles before class, thinking about their own implicit bias, as revealed by the IAT. During class, everyone will be divided into groups with each group assigned an article to discuss in more depth, including the questions below. After small group discussions, each group will share with the class what they talked about and any insights they had.
 - Questions for small group discussions:
 - How does bias show up in STEM/scientific careers/other elements of academia?
 - How does bias show up in grad student-mentee relationships?
 - How does bias show up in grad student-faculty relationships?
 - How can bias show up in your RMAIS module?
 - Ideas for articles to read (before class) and discuss (in class):
 - (1) Why men don't believe the data on gender bias in science
 - https://www.wired.com/story/why-men-dont-believe-the-data-on-gender-bias-in-science/
 - (2) Why Subtle Bias Is So Often Worse than Blatant Discrimination
 - https://hbr.org/2016/07/why-subtle-bias-is-so-often-worse-than-blatant-discrimination
 - (3) Researchers Find Women Make Better Surgeons Than Men
 - <u>http://time.com/4975232/women-surgeon-</u>
 <u>surgery/?utm_campaign=time&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=social&xid=time_socialflow_twitter</u>
 - (4) Thanks for Listening
 - https://www.chronicle.com/article/Thanks-for-Listening/233825
 - (5) What will it take to keep women from leaving STEM?
 - https://hbr.org/2016/09/what-it-will-take-to-keep-women-from-leaving-stem

- Wrap-up talk about what we've learned and how to find more resources.
 - Implicit bias is a really big subject, so we've only skimmed the surface in the two weeks of the bias modules. There are many other resources out there to help you. The CSU Women and Gender Collaborative website has many great resources to keep you learning. You can also attend campus events on the topic and be supportive of inclusivity in STEM and other fields. It's really hard to overcome implicit bias, so learning more about the subject can help you to become familiar with the problems and be part of the solution. There are many resources to help you learn and understand your biases.
 - Take more IAT tests, if you feel comfortable, to further explore your own biases.

Keywords: Implicit bias, unconscious bias, mentoring, STEM

Additional References:

https://hbr.org/2017/04/dont-give-up-on-unconscious-bias-training-make-it-better https://www.nature.com/articles/495033a https://diversity.ucsf.edu/resources/strategies-address-unconscious-bias https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10869-012-9264-7 http://tlab.princeton.edu/demonstrations/ https://outsmartinghumanminds.org/module/about-face https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10869-014-9384-3 https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10869-014-9384-3 https://hbr.org/2016/07/why-subtle-bias-is-so-often-worse-than-blatant-discrimination https://static.nytimes.com/email-content/RR_1293.html?nlid=48640646?smid=fb-nytimes&smtyp=cur https://thecollaborative.colostate.edu/education/

