Lesson plan Format: Bimson Humanities Seminar: Challenging Student Perceptions of the Middle East and North Africa

Amy Barrier 10th grade AP Human Geography: Ethnicity

**Title of Lesson: Ethnicity and Identity: case study Arab American identity and misconceptions**

Inquiry Questions: What is Ethnicity? How do we identify ourselves? How do dominant cultures identify “other people”?(Arab Americans)

Concepts and skills:

* Defining ethnicity vs race.
* Awareness and understanding the dangers of stereotyping and misconceptions of marginalized groups of people

Evidence outcomes:

* The above mentioned
* Students should be aware and recognized current Arab American misconceptions and stereotypes and negative implications that arise from them.

Activities:

* Have students define Ethnicity and Race:
  + Start with the questions; “What is your ethnicity?” “Is being an American an Ethnicity?” “Who identifies themselves as an ethnicity other than American?” “How many of you never really think about it? Why?” “What is the difference between ethnicity and race?”
  + Have students read the definitions of both from the textbook and discuss whether they would change or add anything to these definitions.
  + Show the video from the following site; you can also use this sites definitions of both terms, scroll down to find video)
    - <https://www.diffen.com/difference/Ethnicity_vs_Race>
  + Discuss the importance of self-identity and examples in history where identities were assigned for people. Do we “assign” people's identities today? What is stereotyping? (For my students this is where we would reintroduce implicit bias.) Option to show clip from the film “Mean Girls” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZ_qXmxdgGM>
  + Discuss: Can stereotyping lead to prejudices and racism? Are minority ethnicities in America (multi-ethnic country) prone to prejudices and racism? Examples, historical and present.
* Case Study: Stereotypes and Misconceptions of Arab-Americans, Muslim Americans
  + Have students write stereotypes they know of regarding this group, collect anonymously, share.
  + Share parts of **Usama Alshaibi’s pp and lecture on Arab American identity**.
  + Possibly show excerpts from **Jack Shaheen’s “Reel Bad Arab”**

**(I HAVE CREATED A SLIDESHOW THAT COULD BE USED IN THIS SECTION THAT I WILL ALSO SHARE WITH EVERYONE)**

* Assignment(evaluation of success): Find 2 examples of Arab American misconceptions and stereotyping in current American popular culture. (films, TV, music, commercials, memes,)
  + What is the misconception/stereotype? Why do you consider it so?
  + Was this explicit or implicit bias? Why or why not?
  + In general, is it important to be aware of these misconceptions? Explain.
* Optional Assignment: Ethnicity is only a portion of identity and diversity. How do you identify yourself?
  + From **Hossam Mazen**: Pass out the handout on the Four Layers of Diversity. Explain the model. Have students turn to the blank model and feel it out for themselves. Share out with small groups.

Approximate time: 1 ½ to 2 hours (2 class periods)

Most Resources taken from Day 3 of Bimson Seminar

Rough Draft - more resources and conceptualization will be expanded added to the ‘case-study’ portion of this lesson.

With more time, I would like to try and link the following article with Alishaibi’s power point and bring in some of McQueeney’s examples.

McQueeney\_Disrupting Islamophobia\_Teaching the Social Construction of Terrorism in the Mass Media