AGENDA
Course #1719
White Fragility – Book Discussion

March 25, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
April 29, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

This New York Times best-selling book explores the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged and how these reactions maintain racial inequality.

In this “vital, necessary, and beautiful book” (Michael Eric Dyson), antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and “allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to ‘bad people’” (Claudia Rankine). Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue.

In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.

But… this book is controversial.

In a July 2020 publication of The Atlantic, John McWhorter of Columbia University wrote, “White Fragility is, in the end, a book about how to make certain educated white readers feel better about themselves. DiAngelo’s outlook rests upon a depiction of Black people as endlessly delicate poster children within this self-gratifying fantasy about how white America needs to think—or, better, stop thinking. Her answer to white fragility, in other words, entails an elaborate and pitilessly dehumanizing condescension toward Black people. The sad truth is that anyone falling under the sway of this blinkered, self-satisfied, punitive stunt of a primer has been taught, by a well-intentioned but tragically misguided pastor, how to be racist in a whole new way.”
ABOUT THE COURSE:

This two-part learning experience begins with an introductory session on March 25, 2021, from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. During Session I, participants will explore the concept of white fragility, examine the controversy surrounding the book, and set agreements for reading the text and discussing the content.

After reading the book and completing a book discussion guide, participants will engage in a 90-minute book discussion on April 29, 2021, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. During Session II topics of race, white fragility, and the book’s controversy will be explored in more detail.

By reading *White Fragility*, participating in both Sessions, and completing the book discussion guide, members will earn 8 hours of Act 48/Chapter 14 credit.

This book is not intended as a reading for students, but rather an introspective tool to help guide anti-racist education and reduce racism and bias in professional practice. The skills gained through reading and reflecting on the book will provide participants with skills for promoting and supporting educational equity in their learning environments and communities.

Location: Virtual Sessions Registration Deadline: March 4, 2021

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Books will be ordered based on members who are registered by the deadline.
- Registered participants may pick up their books in the vestibule of the PSEA Office (413 W. Plum Street, Suite C, Edinboro, PA) beginning March 15, 2021.
- Please call the office at 814-734-3711 prior to picking up your book to confirm that your pick-up time can be accommodated.
- Special arrangements for book distribution can be made by contacting NW Region Council on IPD Staff Liaison Robert Myers via email at: rmyers@psea.org.
REGISTRATION FORM
Thursday, March 25, 2021 – 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 29, 2021 – 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
NW Region RCPE Sessions
Course #1719

Facilitated by: Gina L. Gullo, Ed.D., Education Services, PSEA

There is no charge to attend. Please complete this form in its entirety. You must be a PSEA member to attend. EA participants (and ESP participants with PDE certification) must include their PPID numbers. ESP participants are encouraged to seek prior Chapter 14 approval from their employers. Following the Sessions, PSEA will provide ESP participants with certificates.

Name: _____________________________ Local Union: _____________________________

Home e-mail: ________________________________________________________________
(Confirmations, cancellation notices and the Zoom meeting link will be sent via home e-mail.)

Home phone: _______________________ Cell phone: ________________________

Home address: ________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

PPID # (if applicable): _________________________________________________________
(PSEA CANNOT submit Act 48 hours unless you provide your PPID number. If you do not provide one, PSEA will assume that you DO NOT wish for us to submit your hours to PDE.)

Please complete and submit your registration no later than March 4, 2021.

You may email your registration to dbrace@psea.org, fax your registration to 814-734-5206, or mail it to:
PSEA - Attn: Debbie Brace at 413 W. Plum St., Suite C, Edinboro 16412.

REGISTER ONLINE AT https://www.psea.org/regions/northwestern-region/white-fragility-book-discussion/

A MINIMUM OF 15 PARTICIPANTS IS REQUIRED TO HOLD THIS EVENT. THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IS 50.