

Student Teaching Modules: Stereotypes, Representation, Prison Systems, and Legal Pluralism

1. How do stereotypes affect stress? How can stress affect health?
2. What are some examples of stereotypes that you have been exposed to? What is some bias behind these stereotypes?
3. What is the role of stereotypes in colonizing systems and structures? That is, why do they exist and what purpose do they serve?
4. Why does avoiding talking about stereotypes, racism, and discrimination not solve these problems?
5. Deb Haaland received the second to least amount of vote in favor of her confirmation as Secretary of the Interior—with even some Democrats questioning whether or not they'd support her. Why do you think this? Does this vote say something about the U.S. Senate as an institution? Why or why not?
6. What are some misconceptions you had about Indigenous representation in the government? How can we all work to change our perceptions?
7. How can more Indigenous Peoples become represented in our political systems? In what ways can increased representation actually undermine indigenous sovereignty? How can the benefits and costs of representation be balanced and whose responsibility is it to make these decisions?
8. How can the existence of systemic racism help us understand the statistics for incarcerated Indigenous Peoples?
9. What complications have led to a lack of data on both Indigenous experiences with police and with the prison system?
10. What function(s) have prison systems and criminalization of Indigenous Peoples served under colonizing institutions and political systems? What purpose do they serve, and who benefits from these policies?
11. How can we approach solving the disproportionate incarceration of Indigenous Peoples (among others) and criminalization of these communities in the United States and Canada?
12. In your own words, define legal pluralism. How can legal pluralism improve indigenous rights in settler colonial states? What are the limitations of legal pluralism, and how might it still disenfranchise Indigenous Peoples or reduce their sovereignty?
13. Do you think more universities and law schools should have their curriculum to incorporate more "outside the box" concepts, practices, and theories? How might learning about indigenous law and tribal laws be beneficial for aspiring law students? Why or why not?
14. Describe the relationship(s) between law and society. How are they distinct, how do they inform each other, and how does change occur in either/both?
15. In many societies, including many indigenous communities, nature and the environmental world are equal to human persons. Recent legal discussions have debated granting the natural world (such as rivers, forests, and mountains) legal personhood so that environmental damage to them could be adjudicated in courts. In other words, damage to the natural world violates their rights (just as it would a person) and so have the ability to 'face' their violators in court for remedy and accountability. What is your opinion on granting legal personhood to the natural world? How might this fit in within a system of legal pluralism?