

VITA

Dr. AWASOM (B.A. Hons; M.A; Ed.D)

Dr. Awasom, popularly known by his students, colleagues and friends as “Dr. Awesome”, “Dr. Our Son,” “The Exotic Professor,” and “The Good Doctor,” is full-time instructor of Anthropology and part-time instructor of Sociology in Houston Community College, Northeast. He employs an educational approach that is a synthesis of Afro-centric, Euro-centric and Global philosophies of education.

Dr. Awasom believes: that “Learning and no play makes Jack a dull boy”; that education should not be allowed to be a crushing burden on the shoulders of our children; and that enculturation makes more sense when students view the school as not only a center of learning but also a center of entertainment. The ancient Greeks recognized the importance of entertainment in child education by infusing gymnastics, theatrical activities, and a wide range of sporting events in their educational system.

In class, Dr. Awasom emphasizes punctuality, commitment, collaboration, research, correct use of language, critical and analytical thinking, together with technology/computer-assisted education. He also stresses that all his students must stay positive, set high goals for themselves, work hard at accomplishing them, and see having B, C or F grades as a disastrous accident that needs to be redressed. Given the cancerous nature of racism, prejudice, sexism, classism, nationalism, ethnocentrism, xenophobia and bigotry in some contemporary societies, Dr. Awasom’s adage or guiding principle in all the courses he teaches is “Getting along with human beings who do not look like us.” According to Dr. Awasom, “human beings who do not look like us” include among other people our parents, our sons and daughters, our spouses, our friends, our neighbors, and anybody who is not us as individuals.

The academic climate in Dr. Awasom’s classes is generally one of excitement, joy and laughter. Students taking anthropology from him always expect to see, hear, or do the unexpected, and many of them stereotypically brand his class the “Fun Stuff,” the “Cinema Class,” or the “Movie Class.” According to Dr. Phil Carspecken of the University of Houston Dr. Lawrence Awasom “casts a sort of light about him where ever he goes, imparting a sense of positivity, humanism, and well-being to those around him. His classes are joyous. He discusses distinctively American educational issues from a unique perspective, leading others to see very familiar things in brand new ways, and very strange things in an old fashion manner.” Dr. Bob. Craig, a one-time Head of Department of Educational Philosophy in the University of Houston, considering Dr. Awasom’s cross-cultural nature, calls him “The Only True Ambassador of Indigenous Folks.”