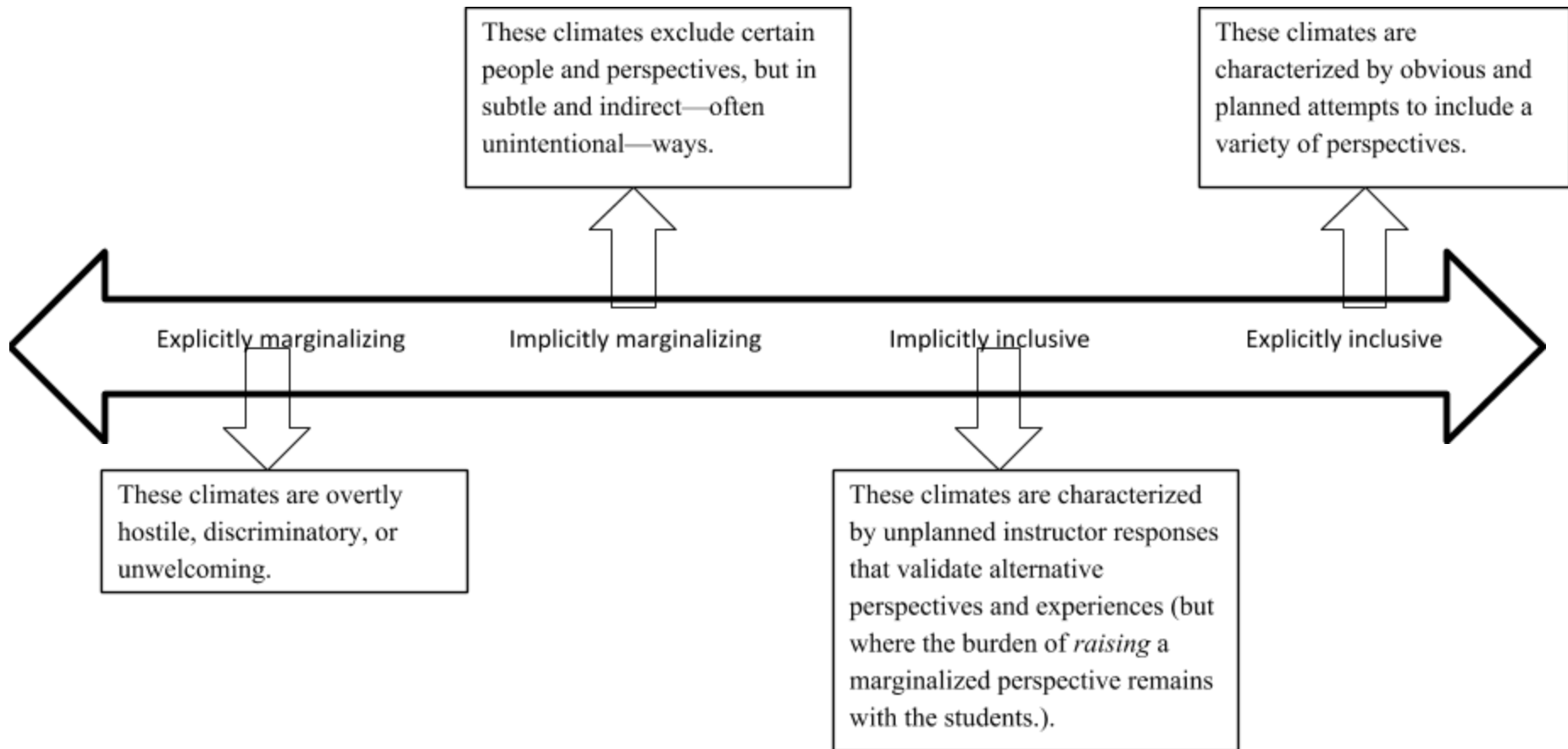


Classroom Climate: A Continuum¹

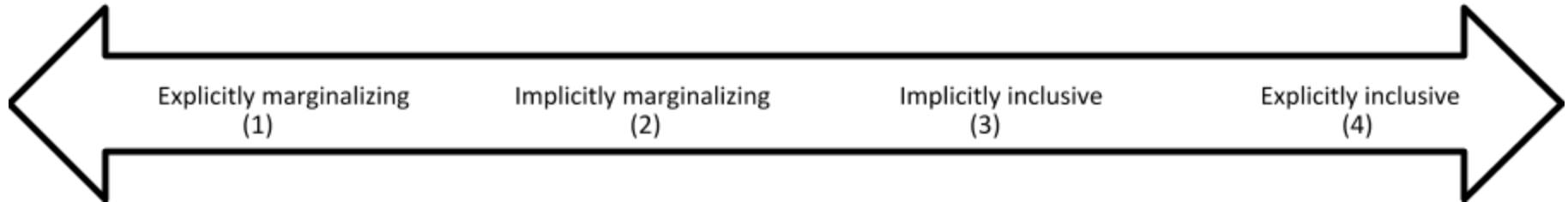


Studies suggest that “course climate does not have to be blatantly exclusive or hostile in order to have a marginalizing effect on students and that, although each instance of subtle marginalization may be manageable on its own, the sum total of accumulated ‘micro-inequities’ can have a profound negative impact on learning” (p.173).

¹ Excerpted and adapted from Ambrose, et al. *How Learning Works: Seven Research-Based Principles for Smart Teaching* (Jossey-Bass 2010): 170-171.

Classroom Climate Scenarios

Part 1. Review the following scenarios and identify the classroom experiences as (1) explicitly marginalizing, (2) implicitly marginalizing, (3) implicitly inclusive or (4) explicitly inclusive. Be prepared to share your reasoning with a partner.



- ____1. The instructor only calls on students of a particular gender or ethnicity during class.
- ____2. When using images to illustrate course terms or concepts, the instructor chooses images that include people from diverse backgrounds.
- ____3. The instructor does not respond when a racist joke is told by a student.
- ____4. When a female student struggles to come up with an answer in class, the instructor jokingly says, “It’s ok, take your time ... you’re easy on the eyes.”
- ____5. The instructor includes guidelines for participation in the course syllabus, detailing expectations for behaviors and ways to interact with peers, and refers to them throughout the class.
- ____6. A student offers a perspective on an issue raised in class, and the instructor says, “That is an interesting idea I hadn’t considered before.”
- ____7. The instructor begins each class with an icebreaker where every student answers the same question from their own experience.
- ____8. The instructor writes a grammar test structured around a narrative of a young man seeking to meet attractive women.

Part 2. At your tables, share your responses to Part 1. For any items highlighted as being explicitly or implicitly marginalizing, brainstorm practices an instructor could use to move toward a more inclusive climate.