During a class discussion, one student said, "I don’t like people who come into the United States and disrespect American culture. If they don’t like it, they can go back to where they came from." A lot of people in that class were immigrants. How do you respond to something like that?

A faculty member said during office hours, "I can tell you were raised by parents whose first language isn’t English." He was trying to explain why I was struggling with my writing. Fact is, English is my first language and I barely speak my parent’s language. He looked at my skin and made a judgment about who I was.

During a meeting, my boss was introducing everyone. He referred to me as "the beautiful woman at the table." I didn’t say anything but I’m sure I looked really uncomfortable. He didn’t draw attention to anyone else in that way. This made me feel like I was there for my looks rather than my PhD. I was angry during the meeting and on through the next day.

I’m a Republican and at least daily I’ll hear a colleague speak derogatorily or snakily about the President, Republicans in Congress, or conservative ideals in general. Their intent generally isn’t malicious, they just assume everyone within earshot leans left on political issues. I’m a political minority in academia. It seems that many within the University don’t acknowledge or respect political minorities in the same way they do other disenfranchised groups. The implication, especially from those we hold to higher intellectual standards is that conservatives on campus are wrong or lesser intellectually.

I once had a woman tell me, "she’s white, so she doesn’t need any money." I am a delivery driver who makes money off tips. People constantly assume that because I’m white I have money and that’s not the case. My family is poor and I definitely don’t see any “white privilege.” I’m a proud Christian and moderate conservative. I keep my head down in the classroom to make sure no one is aware of my views, because they aren’t welcome.

During a class discussion that turned political, the professor implied that because I identify with ANY conservative ideas, I was a part of the group holding our country back, that I was a bigot, that women didn’t deserve control of their bodies. He said that all conservatives promoted stereotyping. In those moments, I was the one who was stereotyped.

During a meeting, someone referred to a faculty as "Dr. _." I said "I really like HIS ideas," referring to Dr. _. Another person quickly noted "Dr. _ is a ‘she.’ Adding, women can be doctors too?” It was an honest mistake on my part, but the inference was that, because I’m a male, my comment was based in sexism. I was taken aback. I try to be as inclusive, but because I’m male, my errors are assumed to be an inherent flaw in my character.

MICROAGGRESSIONS: CAUS DIVERSITY INITIATIVE EXHIBITION