

EFND 2110H: Investigating Critical and Contemporary Issues in Education Course Syllabus - Spring 2008

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- A. **Purpose of Course:** This course engages students in observations and analyses of critical educational issues influencing the social and political contexts of educational settings in Georgia, the United States, and Other Countries. Students examine the teaching profession, the meaning of education and schooling in diverse cultures, and the moral and ethical responsibilities of teaching. In addition, there is a ten hour field component to the course which will provide direct experiences concerning the issues raised in the course.
- B. **Texts:** Joel Spring (2008). *American Education* (13th Edition). McGraw-Hill.
James W. Noll (2007). *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Educational Issues, Expanded* (14th Edition). McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.
- C. **Readings/Assignments/Correspondence:** Additional readings and assignments will be available through the course WEBCT site and made available at the appropriate time. It is your responsibility to be sure you can access and download these readings and assignments (you need *Adobe Acrobat Reader*). In addition, correspondence between the instructor and class members will be done using your **UGA Mail** address, so be sure you keep space available and have your UGA Mail sent to any other mail system you use. **Do Not Use the WEBCT correspondence system.**
- D. **Projects:** You will be required to complete three projects for the course. The first requires you to do a ten hour field experience related to education, and prepare a written report of the experience. **This project is a *REQUIRED* component of this course—you will not receive a grade in this course if you do not complete this project.** The second project involves presenting/leading a discussion of one or more of the chapters in the Noll text. The final project involves identifying an issue relevant to education today, preparing a formal paper and making an oral presentation to the class. More detailed outlines of these projects will be given in separate documents. Your grade on the first project will count 10% of your final grade and your grade on the second will count 20% of your final grade, and your grade on the third project will count 30% of your final grade.
- E. **Test:** There will be one test which will count 20% of your final grade. The exact nature of the test will be given at a later date. The date of the Test is found on the *Course Schedule*.
- F. **Participation:** You are expected to attend class, demonstrate that you have completed reading/homework assignments by participating in class and turning in homework assignments on time, and completing any other assigned tasks. Your participation grade will be calculated by the

percentage of classes attended (excluding excused absences), and the number of homework assignments completed. Participation counts 20% of your final grade.

- G. **Grading:** Grading will be based on the plus/minus system. Below is the system used in the course based on the traditional 100 point system:

A = 93 and higher A- = 92-90 B+ = 89-87 B = 86-83 B- = 82-80

C+ = 79-77 C = 76-73 C- = 72-70 D+ = 69-67 D = 66-63 D- = 62-60

F = 59 and below

- H. **Completing Assignments on Time:** Due dates for assignments are fixed. Late assignments will be accepted but will be given only partial credit.
- I. **Electronic Devices:** Cell phones, I-Pods, Laptops and any other electronic devices are to be turned off during class. If you use your laptop to take notes, you need to notify your instructor. If you must have your cell phone on for some reason, discuss the reason with your instructor and put the phone on vibrate.
- J. **Academic Honesty Policy:** The University of Georgia's honor code will be upheld in this course. The student honor pledge is: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." See:

www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honest/culture_honesty.htm

**EFND 2110H: Investigating Critical and Contemporary
Issues in Education
Tentative Course Schedule - Spring 2008**

Date	Topic	Assignment*
1/7	Introduction to Course	
1/9	Status of American Education	PDK Article
1/14	<i>Teachers</i>	
1/16&23	Themes in U. S. Education/ Goals of Public Education in the United States	Spring Chap. 1
1/28	Education and Equality of Opportunity	Spring Chap. 2
1/30	Race, Gender and Special Needs Students	Spring Chap. 3
2/4&6	Student Diversity/Issues of Multicultural Education	Spring Chaps. 4 & 5
2/11&13	Little Tree	
2/18&20	Local, State and Federal Control of Public Education and Alternatives to Public	Spring Chaps. 6 & 7
2/25	Profession of Teaching	Spring Chap. 8
2/27	Curriculum and Instructional Decision/Legal Issues in Public Schooling	Spring Chaps. 9&10
3/3&5	TEST	
3/10&12	Spring Break	
3/17&19	<i>LaLee's Kin</i>	
3/24	Issues in U. S. Public Education	
3/26-4/16	Taking Sides Debates	Selected Chapters in Taking Sides
4/23&28	Individual Presentations	
5/2	<i>Final Examination Period 3:30-6:30PM</i>	

* Additional Readings will be added when appropriate