

## EFND 2110

### Investigating Critical and Contemporary Issues in Education

#### SPRING 2008

**Instructor:** Sinan Gemici

**Office:** 110 River's Crossing #33  
Athens, GA 30602

**Phone:** 706-542-1682 (department phone)

**Email:** [sgemici@uga.edu](mailto:sgemici@uga.edu)

#### **Purpose of this 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 field experience component to the course which will provide direct experiences concerning the issues raised in the course. This field experience component requires a MINIMUM of 10 hours.

#### **Course Text Book:**

Joel Spring (2006). *American Education (13th Edition)*. McGraw-Hill.  
The text book is available at the UGA bookstore as well as online.

#### **Readings/Assignments/Correspondence:**

Additional readings and assignments will be given out in class at the appropriate time. Correspondence between the instructor and class members will be done using your **UGA email address ONLY**, so be sure you keep space available and have your UGA Mail sent to any other mail system you use.

#### **Course Projects:**

You will be required to complete the following projects for the course:

The first project requires you to do a ten hour field experience related to education, and prepare a written report of the experience. Note that students do **NOT** have the option to forego the field experience component of this course. Failure to complete the field experience in full will result in failing the entire course. The field experience is worth 10% of the final course grade.

The second project involves identifying an issue relevant to education today and preparing a paper and an oral presentation to the class. More detailed outlines of these projects will be given in separate documents. The term project is worth 30% of the final course grade.

Furthermore, you will be asked to give several short class presentations either by yourself or in collaboration with other students in the course. More detailed information about these short assignments will be provided as the term progresses. Short assignments are worth 20% of your final course grade.

**Test:**

There will be TWO written tests in this course. The first test will be given before the official withdrawal deadline. The second test will be given toward the end of the semester. The exact nature of the tests will be explained during the course of the semester. Each test will be worth 20% of your final course grade.

**Attendance:**

Attendance is mandatory and roll will be taken at the beginning of each class period. Written proof (e.g. doctor's note, etc.) is required for excused absences.

**Grading:**

Grading will be based on the plus/minus system. The grade breakdown is as follows: 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

**Grading for Individual Assignments:**

Field experience:	10 points
Term paper and presentation:	30 points
Short presentations & activities:	20 points (5 points each)
Test 1:	20 points
Test 2:	20 points

**Late Assignments:**

Due dates for assignments are fixed. Late assignments will **NOT** be accepted and **NO CREDIT WHATSOEVER** will be given.

**Electronic Devices:**

Cell phones, I-Pods, laptops and any other electronic devices are to be turned off during class. If you must have your cell phone on for some reason, discuss the reason with your instructor and try to put the phone on vibrate.

**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." More specific information about the UGA honesty policy can be found at

[http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture\\_honesty.htm](http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm)

## EFND 2110

### Course Outline – Spring 2008

Topic	Readings
Introduction to the course	
20/20 video on US public education	
Themes/Issues in US public education	Spring Chapter 1
Equality of Opportunity in Education	Spring Chapter 2
Race and Gender Issues	Spring Chapter 3
LaLee's Kin video	
Diversity/Multiculturalism	Spring Chapters 4 & 5
Special Needs Issues	
Control of US public education	Spring Chapters 6 & 7
Alternatives to public education	
The teaching profession	Spring Chapter 8
Curriculum & legal issues in public education	Spring Chapters 9 & 10

#### Key Dates:

Field experience forms due: February 19

Test 1: March 6

Spring Break: March 11

Field experience report due: April 8

Test 2: April 15

Term project due: April 29

**Please note that the course outline and dates may be subject to change.**