

EFND 2110: Investigating Critical and Contemporary Issues in Education

FALL 2007

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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 (2006). *American Education* (12th Edition). McGraw-Hill.
- 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 two 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. 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. Your grade on the first project will count 10% of your final grade and your grade on the second project will count 30% of your final grade.
- E. **Test:** There will be one test which will count 30% of your final grade. The exact nature of the test will be given at a later date. It will come about two-thirds the way through the course.
- 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), the number of homework assignments completed, and completing the on-line course evaluation at the end of the course. Participation counts 30% of your final grade.

- G. **Extra Credit:** You can earn extra credit by locating a book or video (DVD/VHS) related to education and writing a brief 2-3 page critique. If interested, contact the instructor for approval of the book or video and a contract will be made for the exact nature of the report and the amount of extra credit you can earn. The maximum amount of credit will be five points added to your final grade. The amount of extra credit will be based on the complexity of the reading or video and the quality of the report. Extra credit is due the last day of class before examination day.
- H. **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

- I. **Completing Assignments on Time:** Due dates for assignments are fixed. Late homework assignments will be accepted but will be given only partial credit.
- J. **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 try to put the phone on silent.
- K. **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