

University of Georgia  
College of Education  
Social Foundations of Education  
Spring 2008

EFND 2110: Investigating Critical & Contemporary Issues in Education

Dr. M. Wilder  
Tel. 706/542-6488

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30 to 4 pm and by appointment  
E-mail: [mwilder@uga.edu](mailto:mwilder@uga.edu)

### **Course Description**

This course will critique how the American school and the teaching profession are often organized and influenced by US society. We will examine the ways in which teachers who teach in K-12 school settings use curriculum materials to impart knowledge that will be useful in maintaining societal aims and good citizenship. Instead of focusing primarily on abstract models of education, we will address specific problems faced by teachers as they interface with school administrators, parents and their students. We will look at critical and contemporary issues in US society and discuss how school learning is organized around a community's economic resources and parental involvement. Finally, we will look at how a teacher's philosophy of education is shaped by social, economic, and cultural experience.

### **Course Objectives:**

To understand the multi-functional role schools play in preparing future US citizens.

Examine curriculum ideas used in classrooms that are often tied to political interests and community demands.

Explore how to develop a teaching philosophy that can be used to teach in diverse classroom settings.

To understand how teacher identity is connected to experience and praxis

### **Required Texts:**

Newman, J.W. (2006). *America's teachers, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.* Boston: Allyn and Bacon

Paley, V.E. (2000). *White teacher.* Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Spring, J. (2004). *Deculturalization and the struggle for equality, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.* Boston: McGraw Hill.

## Course Requirements:

All written work must be double-spaced, typed, and edited for punctuation, grammar, and spelling. Proper referencing of sources should be used. See guidelines for APA Style (American Psychological Association). A copy of the manual can be found at the reference desk at the Main library or examples may be found on-line. You may want to copy various examples of citations.

Group work will be evaluated by your professor and peers. If you have any problems in your group, please feel free to speak with the professor.

**The Field Experience component is required for a passing grade in the course. Students do not have the option to forego the field experience and get a lower overall grade in the course.**

## Grading Policy Distribution

Grading for EFND 2110 is on the University approved, A,B,C,D,F system. Specific criteria are set forth in each assignment.

## Grading Distribution

Exam 1	30%	(in-class)
Exam 2	30%	(in-class)
Final Exam	30%	(in-class)
Group Presentation & Participation	10%	

## Examinations:

There will be three formal examinations. All three exams will consist of short answer and essay questions. Exam material will come from the readings, class discussions, and guest presentations. There will be no make-up examinations. Students who are ill on the day of the exam must bring in a medical **letter** from a physician stating that all classes were missed during the week of the examination. If that statement is not included, no make-up examination will be allowed. If students are eligible for a make-up examination, the material will be cumulative. Make-up examinations will be held at the end of the semester during the week of finals.

## Additional Assignments:

**Please Note:** I may change the assignments to reflect topics that emerge from current events and class discussions. Additional reading may also be added. The course activities will include lectures, readings, discussions, group presentations, website visits and guest presentations.

**A Note on Plagiarism and Cheating:** Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are extremely grave ethical violations. All students are to be aware of the University Academic Honesty Policy. In this course, any instance of academic dishonesty will result in referral to the administration for disciplinary action in accordance with university policies. All students should review the guidelines at the website:

[http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic\\_hoesty/culture\\_honesty.htm](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_hoesty/culture_honesty.htm).