

University of Georgia
College of Education
Social Foundations of Education
EFND 8150: Education and Cultural Knowledge
Spring 2008

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Office Hours: Wed: 2:30-4pm and by appointment
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Course Description

This course will critique how culture interacts with beliefs and knowledge and how teachers' and students' belief systems and cultural frameworks interact in social contexts to contribute to continuity, resistance and change. The goal of the course is to challenge our assumptions about how schools are organized and stratified and how both are linked to mobility and reproduction of the prevailing social order, particularly the school-to-work transition. In this course our readings and discussions will be guided by the following questions: What kind of learning takes place outside of schools? Why do school experiences tend to vary by "race," social class and gender? Why do some students seem to learn more and "get ahead" than others? What is counter-culture behavior and does it empower and disempower students

Course Objectives:

To develop students' general abilities to engage in critical thinking concerning both theoretical and empirical work.

To understand schooling within the broader phenomenon of education through an historical lens and a cross-cultural lens.

To recognize how school culture and student culture can both compliment and conflict with expected schooling outcomes.

To expose students to varied forms of stratification systems which exist in contemporary society.

To explore how schools use curriculum as pedagogy for social control.

Required Texts:

MacLeod, J. (1995). *Ain't no makin' it*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press Inc.

McLaren, P. (2005). *Life in schools*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Willis, P. (1977) (1981). *Learning to labor*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Course Requirements:

Grading Policy Distribution

Grading for EFND 8150 is on the University approved, A,B,C,D,F system. Specific criteria are set forth in each assignment. Please remember that the University of Georgia is now on a plus-minus grading system. I will grade the work in this class using the plus and minus criteria. If you would like to speak with me about a grade, please feel free to make an appointment with me and I will be happy to go over your grade with you.

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. A copy of the manual can be found at the reference desk at the Main library. You may want to copy various examples of citations. Examples can be found on-line.

Grading Distribution

Examination #1 = 25%
Examination #2 = 25%
Final Examination = 25%
Term Paper = 15%
Group Work/Class Participation = 10%

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

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_honesty/culture_honesty.htm.