SOCIAL FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN EDUCATION
INTD 203
COURSE SYLLABUS – FALL 2012

Instructor:

Robert Whitehead, Ph.D.
Visiting Professor
Office – Sturges 208C (hours - M [by appointment]; W 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
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Course Content:

This course will comprise presentations and discussions of educational, sociological, cultural, economical and political issues relevant to the American public school system from both historical and contemporary perspectives.

The course will include presentations on: Philosophy and Education; Ideology and Education; and, Educational Theory. These areas will be discussed in terms of relevance to curriculum and instruction, and their impact on contemporary educational programs and policies. In addition there will be presentations on: the development of the American Common School; significant social and political events which have shaped educational policies and programs in the United States; and, contemporary federal education legislation.

A portion of the course will be devoted to a discussion of current social, cultural, political and economic issues (e.g., political correctness/language police, socioeconomic integration, funding/taxes, academic standards, alternative education programs, illegal immigrants, etc.) and their impact on American public education.

Course Outline:

Evolution of the American Common School
- Colonial Period - Pre and Post Civil War
- Turn of the century and World War I

Philosophy and Education
- Idealism
- Realism
- Naturalism/Nontraditional Education

Exam

Ideology and Education
- Nationalism
- Ethnonationalism
- Classic Liberalism
- Contemporary Liberalism/Socialism
- Conservatism
- Totalitarianism (Fascism & Communism)

Exam

Theory and Education
- Essentialism
- Perennialism
- Progressivism
- Critical Theory (Neo-Marxism/The Frankfurt School)

Contemporary Educational Policies/Programs/Legislation
- Eisenhower to Obama

Final Exam

Formative and Summative Experiences

To enhance student learning, this course contains both formative and summative educational experiences. Formative experiences will include: (1) specific questions at the beginning of each class to review previous material; and, (2) specific questions during each class to stimulate discussion among class members. Summative experiences will include: (1) scheduled examinations; (2) unscheduled quizzes; and, (3) written assignments.

Course Requirements:

Three exams covering the lectures, homework and discussions
Two written homework assignments
Unscheduled quizzes
Students are expected to attend class and participate in discussions

Grading:

Exam 80 points
Exam 85 points
Final Exam 100 points
Homework Assignments 40 points
A ttendance & participation 25 points

TOTAL POSSIBLE 330 points

Final Grade Distribution (%):

100-94	A	76 - 74	C
93 - 90	A-	73 - 70	C-
89 - 87	B+	69 - 67	D+
86 - 84	B	66 - 64	D
83 - 80	B-	63 - 60	D-
79 - 77	C+	59 - 0	E

Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

Explain the evolution of the American Common School.
Summarize the philosophies of education and their relevance to American education.
Describe the relationship between political ideology and educational systems.
Summarize the theories of education and their impact on American public education.
Explain the educational programs, accomplishments, controversies. and legislation associated with contemporary federal administrations.

Accommodations

SUNY Geneseo will make reasonable accommodations for persons with physical, emotional or learning disabilities. Students should contact the Director in the Office of Disability Services (Tabitha Buggie-Hunt, 105D Erwin, tbuggieh@geneseo.edu) and their faculty to discuss needed accommodations as early as possible in the semester.