

Selected Questions and Issues in Education

Education 100W

Section: D200

Term: 2011 Fall

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September 6-December 1

Tuesday & Thursday 12:30-2:20 pm BLU 10921

Discussion Topics: This is an introductory course aimed at a wide range of students. Taught in a seminar format involving a wide variety of readings, discussions, and assignments, it aims to develop a better understanding of the multifaceted nature of teaching and learning, schools and school systems. Part of the course is designed and taught by the students themselves, as a way of experiencing the nature of teaching first hand. As a writing-intensive course, the course is also designed to help students develop their writing abilities in three important educational genres. In these writing assignments, and throughout the course, an emphasis is placed on connecting personal experience, observation and belief with an understanding of broader philosophical, social and political issues in education.

Grading:

ASSIGNMENTS

Reflective essay:

After reading and discussing some examples of educational writing that make use of vignettes (brief, vivid descriptions of real-life situations), you will write a short essay of this kind that draws on personal experience or observation. (25%)

Group teaching assignment: In a group

of three people, you will plan and lead a class on some educational question, and subsequently discuss the teaching choices you made. (25%)

Analytic essay: Drawing on models of analytic writing

discussed in class, you will write a short and accessible analytic essay on a significant educational issue encountered by you or other students at SFU. (25%)

Journal: Throughout the course you will keep a journal of observations, reflections, and questions prompted by the course experience or by specific short assignments from the instructor. You'll hand it in once to receive some feedback, five weeks into the course, and again at the end. (25%)

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Required Texts:

Gatto, J.T. (2010). Weapons of Mass Instruction: A Schoolteacher's Journey Through the Dark World of Compulsory Schooling. New Society. ISBN 0865716692.
Nathan, R. (2006). My Freshman Year: What a Professor Learned by Becoming a Student. Penguin. ISBN 0143037471

Courseware package.

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: None

Notes: Students in all Faculty of Education courses are encouraged to review policies pertaining to academic integrity available on the Undergraduate Programs website: http://www.educ.sfu.ca/ugradprogs/student_resources/index.html

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.