

REGULAR SUMMER SESSION 1984

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. John F. Ellis

WEDNESDAYS 1:00 - 3:50

LOCATION: On Campus

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: Human variability; relationships between motivation, learning and development.

COURSE CONTENT:

The course will contain two elements: psychological information which bears upon the practice of education and current educational issues which contain psychological components.

Psychological topics will include the following: learning theory, motivation, individual differences, assessment.

Educational issues will be selected from among the following: class size, provision for learning disabilities (and other forms of human variability), public versus professional control, conflicting views of schooling.

BACKGROUND:

Teachers, parents, taxpayers and politicians are continuously dealing with educational issues. They take actions, express opinions, cast votes and develop policies on the basis of their analysis of an issue. Most typically the analyses are incomplete, unconsciously biased or ill-informed. Sometimes, regrettably, analysis is ignored and emotion or ideology takes its place.

Almost every issue is complex and is interrelated and intertwined with other issues. The issue of class size, for example, involves economic, political, social, psychological and ideological questions. In addition, it is interrelated with other issues such as teacher preparation, the nature of learning and provisions for learner variability.

EXPECTATIONS:

It is expected that students who successfully complete this course will be able to do the following:

1. To demonstrate knowledge of specific psychological matters which bear upon education.
2. To comment knowledgeably on the psychological aspects of major educational issues.
3. To demonstrate an awareness of the complexity of an educational issue.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Three short papers (300 words, typed, double-spaced) - 1 for practice. 30 pts. (15 each)
2. Mid-term exam - short essay - based on lectures and text readings to date. 20 pts.
3. Longer paper (1000 words, typed, double-spaced). 30 pts.
4. Final exam - short essay - based on lectures and text readings. 20 pts.

TEXTBOOK: (required)

Gage and Berliner. Educational Psychology (2nd ed.). Rand McNally, 1975.