

Fall Semester 1997

EDUC 230 - 3  
Introduction to Philosophy of Education

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D1.00

**PREREQUISITE**

None.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The heart of philosophy has always been critical reflection and inquiry, which we need in order to lead an examined life. Without rigorously critical examination of the aims, values, and assumptions that underlie our theory and practice of education, we fall prey to restless consumerism where we rapidly exchange one slogan/proposal/program for another. Or, conversely, becoming helpless in the face of controversial matters is another indicator for the need to equip ourselves with philosophical dispositions and tools for critical reflection and inquiry. This course, then, aims at helping students develop such dispositions and tools in the field of education.

**OBJECTIVES**

This course has the following objectives:

1. To introduce the idea, method, and practice of philosophy.
2. To introduce some of the major topics in philosophy of education.
3. To help students become comfortable and familiar with philosophical inquiry, analysis, and debate.

**REQUIREMENTS**

The focus of the course is in-class inquiry and discussion and, thus, attendance and participation are mandatory. In addition, students are asked to keep reading response journals, and also, there will be other forms of writing assignments. We will discuss the details of the assignments on the first day of class.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

W. Hare and J. Portelli (ed.). (1996). Philosophy of Education: Introductory Readings, Detselig Enterprises Ltd. Second edition. ISBN 1550591363.

W. Hare and J. Portelli (1996). What to Do?: Case Studies for Teachers, Detselig Enterprises Ltd. ISBN 0969725302.