

Spring Semester 2002

EDUC 230 - 3
Introduction to Philosophy of Education

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Thursday 14:30-16:20 in C 9000
plus tutorial

D01.00

PREREQUISITE

None.

DESCRIPTION

Philosophy of Education is currently at an intersection of incredibly rich and diverse visions and arguments concerning aims, values, methods, and assumptions underlying education. This course introduces students to a broad range of diverse philosophical viewpoints, for example, the feminist, ecologist, spiritualist, multiculturalist, critical pedagogist, and so on. Through the lens of these diverse viewpoints, we will explore and examine the conceptions of education (what should our aims be in education?), curriculum (What shall students study?), pedagogy (what does it mean to be a teacher and to teach?), knowledge (what is knowledge and what is it for?), and ethics (what morals and values shall we teach our young?). It is the intent of this course that our students come away from the course with a comprehensive picture of the kinds of philosophical debates waged in education around the above themes. Moreover, we intend that our students become perspectival thinkers who are able to think, question, and interpret any educational issue from multiple perspectives. And lastly, we promote that the students emerge from the course with a strong but informed personal voice and stance, capable of entering into dialogue and debate with confidence.

OBJECTIVES

The coursework aims at cultivating in the students:

- the ability to read texts self-reflectively;
- the ability to employ philosophical vocabulary;
- the ability to examine practices in the light of theories, and vice versa;
- the ability to compose carefully conceptualized and reasoned arguments;
- the ability to engage in productive dialogues in a community of inquiry.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading journal; one paper; one collaborative writing project. No exams.
Details to follow on the first day.

TEXT

Custom Courseware.

EDUCATION 230-3 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

This course provides prospective teachers as well as others interested in education an opportunity to examine a variety of educational problems from a philosophical perspective. The central concern of the course is to elucidate the nature of education as a phenomenon distinct from such activities as training, schooling, and socialization.

This course is divided into five units, as follows:

1. Conceptions of education – What should be our aims of education?
2. Curriculum – What shall we teach? What shall students study?
3. Pedagogy – What does it mean to be a teacher and to teach?
4. Knowledge – What is knowledge for?
5. Ethics – What morals and values shall we teach our young?

PREREQUISITE: None.

REQUIRED TEXTS: None.

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS: This course is delivered online using a computer conferencing system called FirstClass Intranet Client. Access to a computer and modem is required. Please see reverse for details.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Assignment 1a & b	10%
Assignment 2	20%
Assignment 3	20%
Assignment 4	20%
Assignment 5	15%
Participation in on-line discussions	15%

SUPPLEMENTARY FEES:

Course Materials & Service Fee	\$30
Deposit for Additional Materials	\$20

Computer Requirements

1. This course requires active participation over the internet. Students must have access to a computer and the internet. Students wishing to connect to the internet from home computers are responsible for connecting to either SFU or an external Internet Service Provider (ISP). Information on connecting to SFU through modem dialup lines is available at the Academic Computing Services (ACS) web site:

<http://www.sfu.ca/acs>

Phone numbers for ACS are 291-3234 (Burnaby) or 291-5030 (Harbour Centre).

2. On-campus computer facilities are available. If you are using your own computer, **Minimum Computer Requirements** are:

Hardware

- Macintosh running System 7.1 or higher OR PC with Windows 95/98/NT
- 16 MB RAM
- 10 MB free disk space
- 28.8 baud modem
- Internet Connection
- CD-ROM drive

Software

- Email (e.g. Eudora, Outlook Express or equivalent)
- Internet Browser (e.g. Netscape or Internet Explorer)
- FirstClass Conferencing System (available free of charge to students registered in this course)*

*Described in course materials

General

- Prior computer knowledge is expected (i.e. ability to save files, install programs and maintain your computer).
- Familiarity with the internet and related applications is highly recommended.

3. **Please Note:**

- Support for general computer problems such as operating system difficulties and hardware problems is not available.
- If you are having problems getting started with FirstClass, you may drop in to Teaching and Learning Technologies (WMC 1340) from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM during the first week of classes. Students enrolled in Distance Education courses and unable to access the Burnaby campus may email help@firstclass.sfu.ca for assistance.
- The subsidized modem hours allotted to students each semester are not normally sufficient to complete the required course work.
 - A voucher system has been implemented to allow students to pay for continued modem access on 291-4721 (after your subsidized access is used up). Vouchers may be purchased from the campus bookstores and are sold in increments of \$20. At 60 cents/hour, each voucher is good for approximately 33 hours. Instructions are included with the voucher.
 - For complete information on SFU's Modem Access Policy, check the ACS web site above.
 - **Out of town students only:** It is recommended that students residing outside the Lower Mainland contact a local Internet Service Provider (ISP) since using SFU dialup services will result in additional long-distance charges. Check your local yellow pages under "Internet" for listings.

For further information about computer requirements, contact Teaching and Learning Technologies by email at help@firstclass.sfu.ca

EDUCATION 230-3 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

This course is intended to provide prospective teachers, as well as students with a general interest in education, an opportunity to examine critically a variety of philosophical issues in contemporary education. It also aims to provide students with an understanding of the philosophical method of inquiry into educational questions. The central concern of the course is to elucidate the nature of education as a phenomenon distinct from such activities as training, schooling, and socialization.

This course is divided into five units, as follows:

1. Philosophizing about Education
2. Education
3. Knowledge and the Curriculum
4. Philosophy and the Teacher
5. Ethics and Education

PREREQUISITE: None.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Barrow, R. & Woods, R. *An Introduction to Philosophy of Education*.
(3rd ed.) Routledge, 1988.

Hamm, C. *Philosophical Issues in Education*. Falmer Press, 1989.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Assignment 1	20%
Assignment 2	20%
Assignment 3	20%
Assignment 4	20%
Assignment 5	20%

SUPPLEMENTARY FEES:

Course Materials & Service Fee	\$30
Deposit for Additional Materials	\$20