

EDUCATION 431

An Analysis of Educational Concepts

Spring Semester

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The purpose of this course is to help students of education to apply some of the tools of philosophy to specific problems in education. In order to accomplish this purpose, some of the more significant concepts commonly used by educators will be analyzed, including: education, knowing, teaching, indoctrination and equality. Through an understanding of the language of education some of the more significant problems in education will be analyzed in an effort to learn how one goes about generating the best solution to such problems.

The course will be conducted mainly as a seminar centering on specific assigned readings each week. A lecture format will be used to introduce the topics but participation by seminar members will be encouraged. The course will be organized around the following broad topics.

The Language of Education
The Concept of Education
Knowing and Understanding
Teaching and Learning
Aims of Education and the Curriculum
Some Normative Issues of Education

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Woods and Barrow: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Education (1975)

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Park (ed.), Selected Readings in the Philosophy of Education (1974)

Soltis, An Introduction to the Analysis of Educational Concepts, 2nd edition (1978)

EVALUATION:

1. One exam will be written in a take-home format.
2. A term paper of about 15 typewritten double-spaced pages, or two shorter papers will be required.
3. A brief seminar presentation as well as seminar participation will be expected.