

Education 435-4/807-5

EDUCATIONAL THEORY AND THEORY CRITICISM

REGULAR SEMESTER 1982

Ed. 435 - Thursday, 4:30 - 8:20
Ed. 807 - Thursday, 4:30 - 9:20

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This is primarily a "reading and discussion" course. The intention is to expose students to works which have been of major significance in educational thought. Class discussion will give each student maximum opportunity to develop a critical and informed understanding of a range of educational models. Each model will be considered in terms of its implicit social and political theory, its view of human learning, and its conceptions of human nature and educational knowledge.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students will be expected to read widely and to attend classes consistently. Each student will be asked to prepare two short discussion papers on works of their own choice (wherever possible), and to submit a final essay of 8 - 10 pages in length. There will be no final exam for this course.

COURSE READINGS: Works to be examined are:

Plato: The Republic
Rousseau: Emile
Dewey: Democracy and Education
Skinner: Beyond Freedom and Dignity
Neill: Summerhill
Illich: De-Schooling Society
Freire: Education for Critical Consciousness

All required readings will be on reserve in multiple copies in the library. A supplementary reading list will be provided. Each session will involve a lecture by the instructor, a student discussion paper on the week's topic, and a seminar discussion of the text read. Some text-substitution will be possible if desired. Students taking the course for graduate credit will cover the same material, but in greater depth. The same applies to essays, for which a higher standard of analysis and criticism is expected. Tutorials will be arranged for this purpose.