

EDUCATION 488-4

**SPECIAL TOPICS: CRITICAL INCIDENTS IN TEACHING -
THE TEACHER AS DECISION MAKER**

Spring, 1987
Wednesdays, 4:30 - 8:20

Instructor: Dr. S. Wassermann
Location: MPX 7600

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Prerequisites: Educ. 401/402 or equivalent.

This course is offered for pre-service and in-service teachers who wish to examine the various pressures influencing the decision-making processes of teachers.

One of the important aspects of professional functioning is the autonomy of professionals to arrive at decisions based upon their sound professional judgement. The ability to examine and interpret data, to analyze assumptions, and to project potential consequences is considered a true mark of professional functioning.

In some professions, a variety of pressures -- political, social, emotional, personal -- serve to influence professional judgement and consequently to influence decision making. Such influence may have a deep and pervasive effect upon the degrees of freedom and emotional health of professionals, upon their beliefs and values about the profession itself, and upon their subsequent professional practice.

This course will use contemporary film and literature to raise levels of awareness about factors influencing teachers' decision making, via a vis examinations of critical incidents in teaching. Students who enroll will engage in film viewing, study of specific literature and focused group discussion, in order to examine more critically and become aware of personal decision-making in their own professional educational context.

Course Objectives:

1. To increase understanding of the various and complex factors involved in the decision-making process.
2. To increase awareness of factors influencing a teacher's decision making process.
3. To promote more critical awareness of personal decision making and the consequences of decisions made upon person-in-the-process.

Texts:

No texts will be required, readings will be distributed.

IMPORTANT: Please note that a maximum of 12 semester hours of credit in Education Special Topics courses may be used toward a Bachelor of Education degree.