

EDUCATION 487-4

SPECIAL TOPICS: CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Fall, 1989
Wednesdays, 4:30 - 8:20
Location: MPX 7500

Instructor: Michelle LeBaron
Phone: 291-4419
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PREREQUISITE:

Educ 401/402 or equivalent.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To explore the legal order of the school as either an authoritarian institution or a constitutional bureaucracy;
2. To discuss the implications of the school order for conflict management;
3. To develop a fundamental awareness of the many variables involved in conflict situations and their management;
4. To examine relevant research and literature with respect to conflict resolution;
5. to facilitate implementation of conflict management strategies at the classroom, school, and district level.

Topics to be covered include:

1. Traditional schools: authoritarian or constitutional bureaucracies?
 - order and control v. mutual respect and fairness
 - routine and efficiency v. autonomy, due process, and creativity
 - teacher-centered instruction v. other models
2. Conflict resolution implications:
 - theories of conflict resolution and alternate dispute resolution
 - negotiation and mediation skills for educators
 - management of the process of conflict resolution
 - conflict resolution and classroom / school climate
 - infusion of alternate dispute resolution into curriculum and discipline

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Midterm exam: 25%
2. Major paper: 40%
3. Class participation and feedback: 10%
4. Seminar presentation: 15%
5. Minor paper: 10%

TEXTS:

Marc Robert: Managing conflict from the inside out (Bookstore) and resource materials (from instructor).