

EDUCATION 437

ETHICS AND EDUCATION

SUMMER SESSION, 1978

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. John Wilson, Department of Educational Studies,  
Oxford University, U.K.

DESCRIPTION:

1. This course is about problems of value and practical decision-making in education

a) in relation to education as a whole (e.g. "What kinds of values are there in being educated?", "Have we the right to force people into schools?", "How do we educate people without indoctrinating them?", etc.), and

b) in relation to practical schooling (e.g. "What sort of discipline/authority do teachers need?", "Who ought to control schools?", "How can we morally educate pupils?", etc.).

2. The course is in a broad sense 'philosophical', but previous philosophical training is not required. It is intended for those who want to think hard and argue about these kinds of questions, and are not content to accept current fashion, authority or convention. Most of the course will be conducted informally by discussion: the instructor hopes to find time for further informal discussion outside official class-hours.

3. Required Texts:

P.H. Hirst, & R.S. Peters, THE LOGIC OF EDUCATION (Routledge, 1970)  
John Wilson, PHILOSOPHY & PRACTICAL EDUCATION (Routledge, 1977)

Other relevant books and articles will be mentioned at the beginning of the course, and will be available in the library.

4. Course Requirements:

Students will be required to produce at least two solid pieces of written work (on any relevant topic of their choosing), and to make formal and informal presentations in class from time to time. The chief requirement for the course, however, is the motivation to think and argue seriously (not necessarily earnestly) about these problems.

5. Recommended Text Supplements:

(ed.) R.S. Peters, PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION (Oxford Readings, Oxford University Press, 1973)  
John Wilson, MORAL THINKING (Heinemann, 1970)