

Spring Semester 2003

EDUC 230 - 3

Introduction to Philosophy of EducationTuesday 16:30-18:20
plus 1 hour tutorial

E01.00

Dr. Heesoon Bai
Office: EDB 8666
Phone: 291-5443
E-mail: hbai@sfu.ca**PREREQUISITE:**

None.

DESCRIPTION

Philosophy of Education is currently at an intersection of incredibly rich and diverse visions and arguments concerning aims, values, methods, and assumptions underlying education. This course introduces students to a broad range of diverse philosophical viewpoints, for example, the feminist, ecologist, spiritualist, multiculturalist, critical pedagogist, and so on. Through the lens of these diverse viewpoints, we will explore and examine the conceptions of education (what should our aims be in education?), curriculum (What shall students study?), pedagogy (what does it mean to be a teacher and to teach?), knowledge (what is knowledge and what is it for?), and ethics (what morals and values shall we teach our young?). It is the intent of this course that our students come away from the course with a comprehensive picture of the kinds of philosophical debates waged in education around the above themes. Moreover, we intend that our students become perspectival thinkers who are able to think, question, and interpret any educational issue from multiple perspectives. And lastly, we promote that the students emerge from the course with a strong but informed personal voice and stance, capable of entering into dialogue and debate with confidence.

OBJECTIVES

The coursework aims at cultivating in the students:

- o the ability to read texts self-reflectively;
- o the ability to employ philosophical vocabulary;
- o the ability to examine practices in the light of theories, and vice versa;
- o the ability to compose carefully conceptualized and reasoned arguments;
- o the ability to engage in productive dialogues in a community of inquiry.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be a variety of innovative assignments, some written, some not written.
Details to be provided on the first day.

TEXT

Custom Courseware.

EDUCATION 230-3 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

This online course invites prospective teachers as well as others interested in education to enter into a reflective, convivial dialogue, examining rich and diverse visions and arguments concerning aims, values, methods, and assumptions underlying education. The course introduces students to a broad range of philosophical viewpoints, such as the feminist, ecologist, spiritualist, multiculturalist, critical pedagogist, and other perspectives. Through the lens of these diverse viewpoints, we will explore and examine the conceptions of education, knowledge, curriculum and pedagogy, and ethics. Students will come away with a comprehensive picture of the kinds of philosophical debates waged around these themes in education. They will be able to think, question, and interpret any educational issue from multiple perspectives. Students will emerge from the course with strong but informed personal voices and stances, capable of entering into dialogue and debate with confidence.

This course is divided into four units, as follows:

1. Conceptions of education—What should be our aims of education?
2. Knowledge—What is knowledge for?
3. Curriculum and Pedagogy—What shall we teach? What shall students study? What does it mean to be a teacher and to teach?
4. Ethics—What morals and values shall we teach our young?

PREREQUISITE: None.

Note: Adds are not normally permitted after the second week of classes.

REQUIRED TEXTS: None.

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS: This course is delivered online using a computer conferencing system called FirstClass Intranet Client. Access to a computer and modem is required. Please see reverse for details.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Assignment 1a &b	10%
Assignment 2	20%
Assignment 3	25%
Assignment 4	30%
Participation in on-line discussions	15%

SUPPLEMENTARY FEES:

Course Materials & Service Fee	\$30
Deposit for Additional Materials	\$25

Computer Requirements

1. This course requires active participation over the internet through conferencing software called *FirstClass*. Students must have access to a computer and the internet. Students wishing to connect to the internet from home computers are responsible for connecting to either SFU or an external Internet Service Provider (ISP). Information on connecting to SFU through modem dialup lines is available at the Academic Computing Services (ACS) web site: <<http://www.sfu.ca/acs>>. Phone numbers for ACS are 604-291-3234 (Burnaby) or 604-291-5030 (Harbour Centre).

SFU Students activate your SFU Computing Account online at: <<http://my.sfu.ca>>

2. On-campus computer facilities are available. If you are using your own computer, **Minimum Computer Requirements** are:

Hardware

- Macintosh with System 7.1 or higher OR PC with Windows 95 or later (98, 2000, NT, ME, etc.)
- 6 MB RAM
- 10 MB free disk space
- 28.8 baud modem
- CD-ROM drive

Software & Other

- Internet Connection
- Email (e.g., Eudora, Outlook, Webmail, etc.)
- Internet Browser (e.g. Netscape or Internet Explorer)
- FirstClass Conferencing System*(provided in your course materials package)
- SFU Computing Account (SFU Students only).
Get it online at <<http://my.sfu.ca>>

*Described in course materials package.

General

- Prior computer knowledge is expected (i.e. ability to save files, install programs and maintain your computer).
- Familiarity with the internet, email, and related applications is highly recommended.

3. Please Note:

- Support for general computer problems such as operating system difficulties and hardware problems is not available.
- If you are having problems getting started with FirstClass, you may drop in to Teaching and Learning Technologies (WMC 1340) from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM during the first week of classes. Students unable to access the Burnaby campus may call the Centre or email <help@firstclass.sfu.ca> for assistance.
- The subsidized modem hours allotted to students each semester are not normally sufficient to complete the required course work.
 - A voucher system has been implemented to allow students to pay for continued modem access on 604-291-4721 (after your subsidized access is used up). Vouchers may be purchased from the campus bookstores and are sold in increments of \$20. At 60 cents/hour, each voucher is good for approximately 33 hours. Instructions are included with the voucher.
 - For complete information on SFU's Modem Access Policy, check the ACS web site above.
 - **Out of town students only:** It is recommended that students residing outside the Lower Mainland contact a local Internet Service Provider (ISP) since using SFU dialup services will result in additional long-distance charges. Check your local yellow pages under "Internet" for listings.

For further information about computer requirements or FirstClass, contact Teaching and Learning Technologies by email at <help@firstclass.sfu.ca>

EDUCATION 230-3 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

This course provides prospective teachers as well as others interested in education an opportunity to examine a variety of educational problems from a philosophical perspective. The central concern of the course is to elucidate the nature of education as a phenomenon distinct from such activities as training, schooling, and socialization.

This course is divided into five units, as follows:

1. Conceptions of education – What should be our aims of education?
2. Knowledge – What is knowledge for?
3. Curriculum – What shall we teach? What shall students study? What does it mean to be a teacher and to teach?
4. Ethics – What morals and values shall we teach our young?

PREREQUISITE: None.

REQUIRED TEXTS: None.

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