

MORAVIAN COLLEGE
Education 150 – Education in American Culture
Fall 2008

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Initial Thoughts

Contrary to the perception that is often espoused by the public, quality teaching is not a job that allows you to walk into a classroom at 8 and leave at 3. It is not opening a text at chapter 1 in September and closing it in June at the end of the book. It is not the mindless continuation of what you did last year, and the year before that, and the year before that. Rather, it is struggling with educational philosophies that do not always match yours. It is being open to changing your educational philosophies when valid arguments are presented, whether the source be John Dewey or the colleague in the next room. It is the endless hunt for just the right anecdote or explanation that will create the aha moment in your students. It is the continual search for new ideas, new methods, new material. It is taking classes, taking classes, and taking more classes. It is knowing where you came from so that you have an idea of where you are going – or even, perhaps, where you should not go. It is never ever giving up on a student, even when your common sense questions your own judgment. It is a job that allows you to watch small children or teenagers grow into fine young men and women, and know that, somewhere along the line, you played a small part in that success story.

This job description should make you think about some of the realities of the role of an American teacher. The Education in American Culture course will continue this thought process by providing you with a basic foundation to think historically, socially, politically, ethically, and personally about education in America and the role you want to play in its future.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Explain the historical evolution of schools, curriculum, and teaching in the United States.
2. Discuss the role of critical pedagogy in the development of curriculum and teaching practices.
3. Analyze the sociological, political, moral, and cultural factors that affect schools and teachers.
4. Begin to construct a personal philosophy of education.

Required Texts

- 1) Wink, J. (2005). *Critical pedagogy: Notes from the real world* (3rd ed.). Boston: Pearson.
- 2) Spring, J. (2008). *The american school: From the puritan to no child left behind* (7th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.
- 3) Ayers, J. (2001). *To teach: The journey of a teacher* (2nd ed.). New York: Teachers College Press.

Note: We will also be using pertinent articles from the *New York Times* that I will make available to you through hard copy or your Moravian email.

Attendance

A classroom should be a community of learners, not simply a group of people who sit passively as they await knowledge to fall upon them. “*Success is not the result of spontaneous combustion. You have to set yourself on fire* (author unknown).” In order to accomplish this end, you are expected to attend every class and exhibit a basic understanding of the assigned reading. Arrive on time and remain for the entire class period. If you must be absent for some reason, you are to let me know in advance; alternate work will be assigned. Unannounced quizzes are a possibility; you will be permitted to make these up if you produce a medical excuse or have a valid emergency that can be substantiated. It is your responsibility to inquire about and secure materials that were distributed or assignments that were made during a missed class. Absence is not an excuse for missed work. If circumstances prevent you from completing an assignment, you must discuss the situation with me in advance of the due date.

Academic Honesty

Your papers are out-of-class assignments. This permits you to discuss your ideas with other members of the class and to do the necessary readings and writing in whatever environment you find conducive. This dialogue is not plagiarism (the presentation of someone else's thoughts as your own), even when the discussion produces points of view that have something in common with other students. The College's position, however, on academic honesty is clear. For written work to be acceptable, its final form must be the product of your own thought and effort. If the work of others is quoted or paraphrased in your papers, cite that source using APA bibliographic notation (I will create a mini APA style guide for you). In addition, I expect the following honor statement to appear at the end of each paper, test, and quiz that you submit: "I am aware of the need for honesty and integrity when doing my coursework." You are to sign your name below the statement. See the student handbook if you have additional questions.

If a completed assignment is found to be dishonest, a grade of zero will be entered for the assignment, and the Academic Dean will be notified of the action in accordance with school policy. Such an action would indicate an attitude toward learning and teaching that seems inappropriate and would place your application to the teacher education program in jeopardy.

Field Experience

The early field experience gives you the opportunity to begin your movement from the desk of the student to the desk of a teacher (though you will, hopefully, always see yourself as a student. "*One who learns from one who is learning drinks from a running stream* (Native American proverb).") During these four hours a week you will observe classes, talk with cooperating teachers, and work with several students. In order to set up your field experience, you must attend one of the two meetings being held by Ms. Mojadidi, the Education Department Field coordinator. The scheduled times are Wednesday, August 27 at 5 and Thursday, August 28 at 11:45; both are in Prosser. Expanded assignment information related to your field experience will be given by me after your meeting with Ms. Mojadidi.

Cell Phones and Laptops

Since each of you has been raised with strong lessons in courtesy and respect, any expansion of a discussion about cell phone use, text messaging, or inappropriate laptop use during class should not be necessary.

Written Assignments

Written assignments are expected during the class session on the due date. Grades on late assignments will be reduced for each day late. All papers must be submitted in hard copy and typed with 1" margins on all sides. Be sure to use spell check and proofread a hard copy before turning in the paper.

Course Grade

1. Critical Pedagogy report (10%)
2. History of Education paper (10%)
3. To Teach paper (10%)
4. Final Exam: Essay on a contemporary issue (standards, ELL, special education, technology in the classroom) (10%)
5. Quizzes (5%)
6. Writing to Learn assignments (10%)
7. Autobiography and Autobiography Redux (10%)
8. Field Experience journal (15%)
9. Double Entry journals (10%)
10. Successful completion of field experience (5%)
11. Attendance and class participation (5%).

Course Schedule

8/26 (Tues.) - Introduction, Course Overview, thoughts about your teaching autobiography

8/28 (Thurs.) –

Wink – Ch. 1, double entry journal

In addition – On Thursday evening, get thee to a television to watch Barack Obama’s acceptance speech. (ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, MSNBC) Take notes on and be prepared to discuss any element of his speech that will affect education or your role as an educator. This assignment will echo as you read Spring. Pretend your autobiography is due Saturday. Get it done and out of the way on Friday.

What is Critical Pedagogy?

- 9/2 (Tues.) Wink, Ch. 2, Ch 3 (pp. 22-37), double entry journal, informal notes from Obama’s speech, Teaching Autobiography due
- 9/4 (Thurs.) Wink, Ch. 3 (pp. 38-64), double entry journal, watch and take notes on John McCain’s acceptance speech
- 9/9 (Tues.) Wink, Ch. 4 (pp. 65-82), Ch. 5 (83-97), double entry journal, informal notes from McCain’s speech
- 9/11 (Thurs.) Wink, Ch. 5 (pp. 97-119), Ch. 6 (120-129), double entry journal, review of APA requirements
- 9/16 (Tues.) Wink, Ch. 6 (pp. 129-150), Ch. 7 (pp. 151-165), double entry journal
- 9/18 (Thurs.) Wink, Ch. 8 (pp. 165-180), Draft of critical pedagogy report, writing workshop within class (No double entry journal due)

The History of Education in America

- 9/23 (Tues.) Spring, Ch. 1 Thinking Critically About History (pp. 1-9), Ch. 2 Religion and Authority in Colonial Education (pp. 10-42), double entry journal
- 9/25 (Thurs.) Spring Ch. 3 Nationalism, Multiculturalism, and Moral Reform (pp. 46-75) Writing Workshop for Final draft of pedagogy report, double entry journal
- 9/30 (Tues.) Pedagogy report due, Spring Ch. 4 The Ideology and Politics of the Common School (pp. 78-104), Ch. 5 The Common School and the Threat of Cultural Pluralism (pp. 106-136), double entry journal
- 10/2 (Thurs.) Spring, Ch. 6 Organizing the American School (pp. 141-172), double entry journal
- 10/7 (Tues.) No Class
- 10/9 (Thurs.) Spring Ch. 7 Multiculturalism and and the Failure of the Common School Ideal (pp. 175-209) double entry journal
- 10/14 (Tues.) Spring Ch. 8 The Growth of the Welfare Function of Schools (pp. 213-247), double entry journal
- 10/16 (Thurs.) Spring, Ch. 13 Education and National Policy (pp. 389-417), double entry journal
- 10/21 (Tues.) DVD – School, The Story of American Public Education
- 10/23 (Thurs.) Spring, Ch. 14, The Great Civil Rights Movement, the New Immigration, and the New Culture Wars, History of Education essay due

To Teach: Thinking About Teaching

- 10/28 (Tues.) Ayers Foreword (ix-x), Preface (xi-xv), Ch. 1 (pp. 1-24), Ch. 2 (pp. 25-47), double entry journal
- 10/30 (Thurs.) Ayers Ch. 3 (pp. 48-63), Ch. 4 (pp. 64-84), Ch. 5 (pp. 85-108), double entry journal
- 11/4 (Tues.) Ayers Ch. 6 (pp.109-121), Ch. 7 (pp. 122- 133), double entry journal
- 11/6 (Thurs.) Ayers Ch. 8 (pp. 134-142), double entry journal
- 11/11 (Tues.) Draft of Ayers Critique – Writers Workshop

Contemporary Issues in Education – Student and Guest Speaker Presentations

- 11/13 (Thurs.) English Language Learners, Ayers final draft due
- 11/18 (Tues.) ELL continued
- 11/20 (Thurs.) Technology
- 11/25 (Tues.) Special Education,
- 11/27 (Thurs.) No Class
- 12/2 (Tues.) Standards, Autobiography redux due
- 12/4 (Thurs.) Standards continued
- 12/9 (Tues.) Technology and course wrap-up