EDUC 800: Ways of Knowing

Spring, 2011
Robinson Hall A249
Tuesday: 4:30 pm - 7:10 p.m.

Dr. Shelley D. Wong
325 Robinson Hall
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703-993-3513
Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 2:30-4:00 and by appointment

Course Description:

This doctoral foundation course examines the realm of epistemology as it relates to research and inquiry methods and the psychological and sociocultural construction of knowledge. The course will focus on feminist, critical, cultural, and post colonial challenges to traditional epistemologies in educational research. The course is designed to support students’ awareness of their own ways of knowing and their exploration of alternative ways of knowing as conceptual and practical research tools. Using a seminar and experiential approach structured around readings, reflections on those readings, class discussions, activities, and projects, the course seeks to provide an overview of paradigms and to guide students’ understanding and exploration of various ways of knowing and the strengths, limitations, and implications of different paradigms of knowing per their research interests.

Learner Outcome:
This course is designed to enable students to:

1. Gain an overview of the traditions of inquiry that serve as the underlying foundations for inquiry in education research, including rationalism, empiricism, positivism, logical positivism, and post-positivism.
2. Explore how these traditions of inquiry attract adherents and understand how and why they have changed over the centuries.
3. Analyze and reflect upon important personal, sociocultural, professional, political, and other influences on ways of knowing, reflecting on their own disciplinary lenses and training.
4. Students will explore how various ways of knowing affect individual scholars, research, and practice in education and related fields such as philosophy, anthropology, and sociology.
5. Students will describe, compare, and contrast the ways of knowing from a variety of perspectives including: feminist, critical race, cultural-historical, post-colonial and post-structural and consider how different ways of knowing might factor into his/her research interests.
6. Students will expand and refine their scholarship abilities including critical and analytic reading, writing, thinking, oral communication, and the use of scholarly resources.
Nature of Course Delivery
This course utilizes a seminar format. Seminars will include professor and student-led discussions, reflective activities, and student presentations that will take place during class meetings. Students are expected to complete all class readings prior to each session so as to engage in active listening, dialogue, and sharing of ideas. Learning activities will also include independent library research and writing.

How this Course Supports GSE’s Priorities:
This introductory course seeks to develop each student’s ability to be a reflective practitioner who becomes grounded in the ways we come to know through inquiry. Through the classroom conversations, discussions, and presentations, it is intended that we as a classroom community become more analytic about the conduct of inquiry and one’s own perspectives to develop a respect for the diversity of thought that characterizes inquiry.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Student Expectations

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/].

- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See http://ods.gmu.edu/].

- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html].

- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.

- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

- Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Campus Resources

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling,
workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students’ personal experience and academic performance [See http://caps.gmu.edu/].

- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/].

- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See http://gse.gmu.edu/].

- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism, please visit our website [See http://rht.gmu.edu].

MASON SAFETY/SECURITY:
Visit the web sites (https://alert.gmu.edu) to familiarize yourself with what to do in case of an emergency or crisis.

How to get access to Blackboard Learning System:
1. Go to the GMU website:  www.gmu.edu
2. Under “STUDENT” you will find “Blackboard-Log into Blackboard” Click to log in.
3. Enter your username:  it should be your email username minus the “gmu.edu” (i.e. swong1)
4. Find the course EDUC 800 Section 001 2011.

Below is how to access articles on line at GMU: E-Journal Finder
GMU offers an excellent service for obtaining journal articles through e-journal finder. Here are the steps that will lead you to the Hofer & Pintrich article.
2. Go to library link.
3. Go4. Type in name of journal under journal title, i.e., Review of Educational Research.
5. Look for year of journal, i.e., hit JSTOR.
6. Enter your G #.
7. Search journal (by issue or author name). to e-journal finder.

Required Course Texts:
*For APA Guidelines online, also see Owl Purdue Formatting Guide at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/


**Recommended Course Texts:**


[http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/17425964.asp](http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/17425964.asp)

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Standards</th>
<th>Grading</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
<th>Graduate Courses</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>Substantially Exceeds Standard</td>
<td>99 - 100</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory / Passing</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>Meets Standard</td>
<td>93 – 98.9</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory / Passing</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Meets Standard</td>
<td>90 – 92.9</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>Satisfactory / Passing</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>Approaches</td>
<td>88 – 89.9</td>
<td>3.33</td>
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/Course Assignments:

1. Journal Reflections –25 points@15points and 10 points each): Students are to keep a reading journal that is both reflective and analytic. As you read, define whatever questions that arise for you in the readings. Reflect on the reasons why you are asking these questions. The overall purpose of our journaling is the use of personal writing as a means to think and reflect as well as to prepare for class discussions. In particular, the reflections are a means to connect course readings to our personal experiences and to analyze course readings critically. Although there is no specific length requirement, two to three pages might serve to frame the scope of writing. Reflections should be thoughtful and clear. They are opportunities for the student and the instructor to interact one on one. You may elect to do a dialogic or double entry journal with quotes on the left column and your reflections on the right column. See General Criteria for Assessment. Journals will be collected on March 8th and April 26th. Please put your name on the cover page of the journal, but not on headers.

Participation in class discussions – (10 points): Discourse and interaction are in essential part of this if you are absent from class, or a passive participant, your colleagues will not benefit from the knowledge and insights that you have to offer the class. Successful completion of this doctoral level course requires attendance at all classes and active participation in the discussions. Please notify professor if you must miss a class. If you miss a class, you are responsible for working with colleagues to learn the material you missed. Your thoughts and ideas about the readings are welcomed. For this reason, please bring your reading journals to class and come prepared to share.

2. Final Project (select either the Reflective or the Knowing paper) – (35 points). Due: May 3rd

A) Reflective Analysis Paper:
Drawing on reflections, class discussions, course activities, students will write a scholarly paper that addresses the following questions:

1. How would you have described your way(s) of knowing, learning, and thinking when you began this class?
2. As you consider your autobiography/personal history, what factors personal, experiential, familial, socio-cultural, historical, and/or disciplinary influenced your ways of knowing?
3. How has the course affected your ways of knowing as a practitioner and as a researcher?
4. What are the implications of your reflections for your personal, professional and doctoral activities?

As part of the development of your paper, please submit a 2-3 page rationale for your selection of a topic and initial outline for your paper, using the questions above. Due February 15th.

Reflective Analysis Final Project Rubric: On a scale of 1-5, with

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>5 criterion shown to a great extent</th>
<th>4 criterion shown to quite an extent</th>
<th>3 criterion shown somewhat</th>
<th>2 criterion shown to a limited extent</th>
<th>1 criterion not shown at all</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. The author presents as a point of reference, a reflective description of knowing, learning and thinking when s/he began this class.</td>
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<td>2. The paper addresses how the course has affected ones ways of knowing as a practitioner, and explores the implications for personal, professional and doctoral activities.</td>
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<td>3. The paper addresses how this topic or way of knowing has affected the author’s ways of knowing as a researcher.</td>
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<td>4. The paper addresses the implications of this topic or way of knowing for the author’s personal, professional, and doctoral activities.</td>
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<td>5. The author effectively integrates comments and information from a variety of readings from the course and relevant fields of study to contrast various paradigms/epistemological perspectives.</td>
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<td>6. The paper presents the unique perspective or voice of the author with respect to the field of education.</td>
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B) Knowing Paper
Students will select a way of knowing that is new to them, or, one which they would like to delve into more deeply. Examples include, but are not limited to, women’s ways of knowing, post-colonialism, and critical race theory. Your writing should articulate what you believe about teaching and learning and how this “new way of knowing” intersects with your professional practice and doctoral activities. As part of the development of your paper, please submit a 2-3 page rationale for your selection of a topic and initial outline for our paper. Due February 15th.

This outline should address the following questions:
1. What is the “way of knowing” you will explore?
2. How do you propose to go about exploring it?
3. A citation of a few of your sources?

Knowing Paper Rubric

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<tr>
<td>1. The introduction provides a clear and persuasive rationale for the selection of the paradigm or ways of knowing to be discussed and a clear structure or organization for the paper which is grounded in the literature of the field.</td>
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<td>2. The paper contextualizes the discussion of the topic or way of knowing with respect to a particular social, cultural, or institutional setting.</td>
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<td>3. The paper addresses how this topic or way of knowing has</td>
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5. Presentation – (30 points): As this is a reading intensive course and we could easily become overwhelmed and preoccupied with the readings rather than with the sharing of ideas. We have six thematic modules in our course; therefore, an efficient and effective way to handle the readings is to organize ourselves into reading groups, each selecting one of the last five modules. Each group will read the core text for their selected topic and then present to the class. For example, if you and your group select ‘Is Science Multicultural?’, your group is responsible for reading the entire Sandra Harding text, as well as researching the topic and author. The rest of the class will read the article(s)/chapter(s) selected by your group for that module. Your group presentation will serve as a backdrop for the class discussion of what everyone has read together.

Presentation Rubric: (Scale of 1-5 points)

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<td>4. The quality of writing is appropriate for</td>
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<td>a doctoral level course. The paper has</td>
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<td>been edited for misspelled words, subject-</td>
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<td>verb agreement, incomplete sentences, and</td>
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<td>run-on sentences. The length is 10-12 pages,</td>
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<td>double-spaced, and APA style.</td>
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Course Requirements:

1. Attendance is mandatory, as the discussions are an important part of the course objectives.
2. Democratic classroom (see criteria for classroom participation).
3. Each student is expected to complete all the assigned discussions. It is expected that each student will be attuned to ensure the active participation of all in the class.
4. If you must miss a class, you are responsible for notifying completing any assignments, readings, etc. before the class begins. If you miss more than 3 classes you should make arrangements to withdraw from the class.
5. All assignments must be completed on a word processor and turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. (Late assignments will not be accepted without prior approval of the instructor; in addition the grade will be affected).

**Honor Code:**

1. The presenters presented background on the author/authors to place their work in historical context/reveal significance of scholarly contributions. The presentation included a handout of resources, additional readings, websites.
2. The presentation revealed some personal/stances/experience/significance to knowing. The unique voice of the participants came through. There was either an activity or visual or hands on way of approaching the material—not only a traditional lecture.
3. The presenters posed questions/perspectives/that enabled active participation—dialogic classroom community—responded well to questions from the class.
4. The presenters researched the topic well. (The expectation is that the group will have read the entire text and other related texts)
5. The presenters worked together as a team to bring out various aspects/points of view/experiences with the way(s) of knowing and to connect previous discussions, sessions, readings—rich inter-textuality and insights.
All evaluations and homework will be taken under the GMU Honor Code. Students are expected to abide by the honor code set forth in the current edition of the Student Handbook. All exams, assignments, and papers are honor work. Plagiarism is also a violation of the honor code. The University’s Honor Code guidelines for academic honesty are at: http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm. 

How to Avoid Plagiarism
http://www.collegeboard.com/article/0,3868,2-10-0-10314,00.html


Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the GMU Disability Resource Center (DRC) and inform the instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester. See www.gmu.edu/student/drc or call 703-993-2474 to access the DRC. Students with documented disabilities are encouraged to discuss with the instructor any accommodations that can enhance their participation in the course.

Schedule of Topics

1/25 Week 1 Write Self-introduction and bring it with you to class.


Unit One: Cultural Psychology and Anthropology (Weeks 2-4)

Text: Jerome Bruner, Acts of Meaning

“One thing only I know, and that is that I know nothing.” Socrates

2/1 Week 2 Readings: 1) Bruner, Chapters 1, 2

2/8 Week 3 Readings: 1) Bruner, Chapter 3, 4

2/15 Week 4


Accessible through GMU library: E-journal finder.

Final Project 2-3 page rationale

**Unit Two: Women’s Ways of Knowing (Weeks 5-6)**
**Text: Belenky et.al., Women’s Ways of Knowing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 2/22 | 5    | 1) Belenky et al., Introduction, Chapters 1-2  
|      |      | 2) Goldberger et al., Chapters 5-6 |
| 3/1  | 6    | 1) Belenky et al., Chapters 9, 10  
|      |      | 2) Goldberger et al., Chapters 9, 11 |

Final Project 2-3 page outlines

**Unit Three: Is Science Multi-cultural? (Weeks 7-8)**
**Text: Harding, S., Is Science Multicultural?**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 3/8  | 7    | Chapters 1 & 2 from Harding  
|      |      | **Journals Due** |
| 3/15 | No class | Spring Break (3/14-3/20) |
| 3/22 | 8    | Chapters 4 & 8 from Harding |

**Unit Four: Critical Race Theory (Weeks 9-10)**
**Text: Critical Race Theory**
Presenters:

“Cowardice asks the question, 'Is it safe?' Expediency asks the question, 'Is it politic?' But conscience asks the question, 'Is it right?' And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular but because conscience tells one it is right.”
Martin Luther King, Jr.


2) Group select additional chapter(s) from text


“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”
Mahatma Gandhi

“The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned.”
Maya Angelou

Unit Five: Post-Colonialism (Weeks 11-12)
Text: Ashcroft, B. The Post Colonial Studies Reader


4/19 Week 12 Reading: Group selects at least two readings from text. Have readings available to class at least one week in advance.
Unit Six:  Cultural and Symbolic Capital (Weeks 13-14)

Presenters:

“If we spoke a different language, we would perceive a somewhat different world.” Ludwig Wittgenstein

   Sociological Theory, 7(1), 14-25.
   Accessible through GMU library: E-journal finder.
   Journals Due.


5/10 Week 15  Final Projects Due. Prepare for a 5-7 Minute oral Presentation on Final Project.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXTENDED READING)

Language, Anthropology and Cultural Psychology – How we make sense of the world


**Feminism/Post Structural Social Theory**


Pavlenko, A. (2001). "In the world of the tradition I was unimagined": Negotiation of identities in cross-cultural autobiographies. The International Journal of Bilingualism, 5, 317-344.


Critical Race Theory


Post-Colonialism


Cultural and Symbolic Capital
Madood, T. Capitals, Ethnic Identity and educational qualifications, Cultural Trends 13(2), June 2004

Websites
Jerome Bruner http://web.lemoyne.edu/~hevern/nr-theorists/bruner_jerome_s.html
Sandra Harding http://www.uah.edu/colleges/liberal/womensstudies/harding.htm

Benjamin L. Whorf  http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Whorf
                   http://mtsu32.mtsu.edu:11072/Whorf/mindblw.html

Pierre Bourdieu  http://www.jahsonic.com/PierreBourdieu.html

Feminist Theory Website: Feminist Epistemology:
http://www.cddc.vt.edu/feminism/epi.html

Carol Gilligan  http://www.stolaf.edu/people/huff/cclasses/handbook/Gilligan.html

Vygotsky and Education:
Norma Gonzalez  http://coe.web.arizona.edu/pages/fac_lrc/Gonzalez.php
Luis C. Moll  http://www.edu.arizona.edu/moll
Michael Cole  http://chc.ucsd.edu/People/ncole_bio.html
James V. Wertsch  http://news-info.wustl.edu/sb/page/normal/18.html

Ronald Gallimore  
                  http://portal.ctrl.ucla.edu/npi/institution/personnel?personnel_id=46882

Post-colonialism:
Post-colonialism  http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postcolonialism
Postcolonial/decolonial theories  http://www.wsu.edu/~amerstu/tm/poco.html
Contemporary postcolonial literature  http://www.postcolonialweb.org/

Critical Race: