

**George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
International Education Emphasis, PhD Program**

**EDUC 880: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
Wednesday, 4:30-7:10, Research Hall 202**

Instructor:

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OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesdays by appointment, before or after class

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examines international educational systems and focuses on the relationship to human and national development. Studies critical variables that influence access to, and implementation of, education systems in international settings. Includes discussions of curriculum and instruction, assessment, teacher education, education research and policy, culture, language, social justice, equity, conflict and peace, human resources and national politics.

Prerequisite or Co-requisite: Admission to PhD in Education program or permission of instructor.

STUDENT OUTCOMES

Given instruction, discussion and an opportunity to practice, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the fundamental issues and basic concepts in international education.
2. Explain and apply theoretical bases of international education and their relationship to social justice and equity.
3. Demonstrate how economic, social and political development relates to the education sector in developing countries.
4. Demonstrate understanding of intercultural competency and ability to self-reflect on personal development of intercultural competency.
5. Situate education in the process of institutional development, democratization, and transparency.

6. Use constructivist epistemology to analyze international educational questions, issues and problems.
7. Develop a plan to address a specific need or problem within a particular educational system.
8. Demonstrate capacity for leadership and advocacy in an international setting.

RELATIONSHIP TO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

There are a number of organizations that are oriented to specific international education audiences, such as the NAFSA: The Association of International Educators, the Association for the Advancement of International Education (AAIE), which serves international schools; the Institute of International Education (IIE), The Alliance for International Education (AIE) focused on developing partnerships between higher education institutions and international schools; the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), purpose is to promote cross-cultural understanding and social development through international education research, policy and practices, and many others. This course addresses some of the goals and purposes of the above international education organizations and is intended for policymakers, practitioners and researchers who are interested in international education.

In addition, this course is aligned with the following vision statements: CEHD Core Values of research-based practice, social justice, reflection, innovation and collaboration; CEHD's Center for International Education (CIE); and, the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME).

TEACHING/LEARNING METHOD

As a doctoral seminar, the course will be taught using social constructivist and project-based approaches. Relevant print and non-print publications, media and data sources will be reviewed. Discussions will be facilitated by both the professor and course participants. Participants will engage in the design and development of an educational plan that address a specific need or problem within a particular international educational system.

All cell phones should be turned off during class and laptops open at the discretion of the instructor. During class discussions, presentations or other interactive experience laptops will be closed.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

PhD students are expected to attend *all* class periods of courses for which they registered. Class participation is a factor in grading; instructors may use absence or tardiness as de facto evidence of nonparticipation and as a result lower the grade as stated in the course syllabus (Mason Catalog). Excused absences are up to the discretion of the instructor and will be granted for emergencies, unexpected illness or other major unplanned life events. Non-excused absences are the decision of the student however they will result in lower grades. All assignments are due as assigned unless given specific permission of the instructor to change the due date. It is the

responsibility of the student to make arrangements with colleagues to gather information about the missed class.

REQUIRED TEXT(S)

Hayden, M., Levy, J., and J. Thompson (Eds). (2007) *The SAGE Handbook of Research in International Education*. SAGE Publications: Thousand Oaks, CA.

Regan, Timothy (2005). *Non-Western Educational Traditions: Indigenous Approaches to Educational Thought and Practice*, Third Edition. Mahwah, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers.

Shaklee, B. and S. Baily (Eds.). (2012). *Internationalizing Teacher Education in the United States*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Active informed participation: This is defined as full attendance, active informed participation in class discussions and activities, demonstration of positive and collaborative disposition toward colleagues, and satisfactory completion of all project work on time. A major part of course participation is reading, presentation and facilitation of assigned course material. All readings must be completed for the class date for which they are assigned.

EVALUATION

Since this is a doctoral level course, high quality work is expected of all participants. *Attendance at all classes for the entire class is a course expectation.* In order to qualify for a final grade of A+, a participant enrolled in EDUC 880 must (in addition to scoring the maximum possible points) participate in all class discussions, activities and projects. Only University absences identified in the Catalog 2013 will be considered 'excused'. All papers will follow APA guidelines (most recent edition).

All course requirements will be assessed using a scoring rubrics and/or specific guidelines. All required assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Coursework submitted late will automatically receive a one third reduction in total points earned (one full letter grade lower). The grades in this course will be distributed as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Participation | 15% = 15 points |
| Analytical Memo I | 15% = 15 points |
| Analytical Memo II | 15% = 15 points |
| Annotated Bibliography | 25% = 25 points |
| IEPP | 30% = 30 points |

The University-wide system for grading graduate courses is as follows:

| Grade | Standards | Grading | Grade Points | Graduate Courses |
|-------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------------------|
| A+ | Substantially Exceeds Standard | 98 - 100 | 4.00 | Exemplary / Passing |
| A | Meets Standard | 93 – 97.9 | 4.00 | Excellent / Passing |
| A- | Meets Standard | 90 – 92.9 | 3.67 | Satisfactory / Passing |
| B+ | Approaches Standard | 88 – 89.9 | 3.33 | Satisfactory / Passing |
| B | Approaches Standard | 83 – 87.9 | 3.00 | Satisfactory / Passing |
| B- | Approaches Standard | 80 – 82.9 | 2.67 | Satisfactory / Passing |
| C | Attempts Standard | 70 – 79.9 | 2.00 | Unsatisfactory / Passing |
| F | Does not Meet Standard | Below 70% | 0.00 | Failing |

Incomplete Grades:

Students who require an incomplete due to extenuating circumstances *must be a student in good standing prior to the request, e.g. up-to date with all assignments, activities and readings.* Incomplete (IN) can be awarded at the discretion of the instructor. In the case of an IN a contract will be established between the student and instructor with specific dates due for work to be completed. Failure to meet the deadlines will automatically result in a grade of “F”.

Assignments:

Guidelines for Preparing Analytical Memos

The purpose of the memos is to provide you with the opportunity to apply your critical thinking and analytical skills. For each memo you must select one qualitative article and one quantitative article (a total of 4 articles for the 2 assignments) on the same topic. The memos should be 4-6 pages in length, references no more than 5 years old and come from refereed journals in international education. When submitting your memo, attach a copy of each article. The first analytical memo should focus on topics such as **equity, democracy and/or social justice**, while the second memo should focus on topics related to **curriculum, instruction, assessment, research and/or evaluation in international education.**

Both memos must address the following questions:

- 1) Who is the audience addressed for each article?
- 2) What are the implicit and explicit assumptions of the author(s)?

- 3) What are the issues discussed in each article?
- 4) What are the implications of the issues discussed for international education policy and practice?
- 5) What are the limitations of each article?
- 6) What did you learn from reading each article?

In addition, all memos must include the following: **Participant's Name, Course Title, Section and Number, University Name, Date and Memo No.** The title of your memo must be in the following format:

Author(s) Last name, First name. (Year of Publication), Title of Article, Name of Journal, Volume, Number, Page Numbers.

Please note that failure to adhere to the above requirements will result in loss of points. If you have never written a critical review please read carefully the reference at: olinuris.library.cornell.edu/ref/research/skill26.htm on Critically Analyzing Information Sources.

Grading of Analytical Memos

Analytical memos will be worth 15 points each. Each question will be worth two points except for 4 & 6 which will be 3 points apiece. The memos will be graded as follows: 0 = No response to the question, 1-2 =incomplete information, 2-3 = satisfactory, 3-4 = beyond expectation.

Annotated Bibliography 25%

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to refereed articles and is followed by a brief (150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy and quality of the sources listed (Cornell University Library, 2013). The purpose of the annotated bibliography is to give you an opportunity to explore topical research in international education, provide a concise review, analysis and evaluation of the articles you have read. You must read and review 10 refereed research articles, 5 qualitative and 5 quantitative, all in the same topical area. For each article read you must list the reference citation at the beginning (using APA format) and provide a succinct critical analysis of the article below. Additional information on writing Annotated Bibliographies is provided on the Bb site.

Grading of Annotated Bibliography:

The annotated bibliography will be worth 25 points. Each bibliography will be graded on breadth, objective reasoning, coverage, writing style and evaluation (all worth 5 points each).

Breadth – to what extent did the bibliography represent the topic of study; did it include 5 quantitative and 5 qualitative articles; were all articles refereed?

Objective Reasoning – is the information shared empirical; was the type of research identified; was the analysis congruent with the article results/findings; were the findings valid and reliable; how common were the findings to other studies in the field?

Coverage – do the articles represent the thinking in the field? Were the sources relevant and current?

Writing Style – does the bibliography conform to APA standards in all dimensions? Does the annotation conform to word limits and express and evaluation of the article?

Evaluation – is the author able to evaluate/judge the validity and/or trustworthiness of the reviewed article?

International Education Project Plan (IEPP) 30%

The purpose of the IEPP is to give each participant an opportunity to conduct an in depth examination of specific issues or topics related to international education (e.g., regional studies, social justice, peaceful change, demographics, international curriculum, teacher/administrator professional education, non-formal education, development, international programs).

Students may also propose a major project of their own choosing. This may include grant writing/submission; journal article (written/submitted), an action research plan for initiation of an international project. Each paper will be approximately 15-20 pages in length.

All project topics must be approved in advance by the instructor. Each student will become an “expert” in a particular dimension of international education. Each student will provide an outline of their presentation, a brief report of the current research in the field, and a list of references/ resources to share as part of their final presentation.

Grading of IEPP

| Grade/Points | Quality of Written Work | Completeness of Work | Class Presentation |
|---------------------|--|---|---|
| A+ 100 | Exceptional quality and insight; a rare & valuable contribution to the field. No APA errors | 100% complete | Clear description of the topic and its importance; strong evidence of critical reflection; delivery is engaging and interactive; strong evidence of preparation & organization; extensive resources provided. |
| A 99-95 | Convincingly on target; demonstrates evidence of understanding and application; clear and concise writing; the | Accurate & seamless writing; virtually a complete product | Clear description and importance; critical reflection apparent; delivery is good and somewhat engaging; evidence of preparation |

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|---|
| A- 94-90 | reader is not distracted by grammar and/or spelling and APA citation errors. On target with evidence of understanding; additional need for clarification; more than four errors in grammar, spelling or APA citations | Some shortcomings, none that distract from overall work | & organization; some resources provided. Description of topic; little evidence of reflection; delivery is okay; little engagement; some evidence of organization & preparation; limited resources provided. |
| B+ 89 –85 | Competent; provides credible evidence of understanding and application; some lapses in organization, APA citations and/or writing clarity. | Moderate shortcomings; minor elements missing that distract the instructor’s ability to see the product as a whole. | Student states the topic but fails to describe importance. No apparent critical reflection; Delivery is understandable but not enthusiastic or engaging; evidence of preparation is not clear; very limited resources provided. |
| B 80 – 84 | Evidence of understanding presented but incomplete; writing indicates gaps in logic; grammar and/or spelling errors distract the reader. Weak or insufficient APA citations. | Evidence of effort but one or more significant and important points are missed or not addressed. | Student makes a presentation without sufficient planning or preparation; topic is unclear; importance is not identified; delivery is difficult to follow; no indication of preparation; few if any resources presented. |
| C 79 and below | Undergraduate level and quality; unsophisticated; assignments show little or no connection to course content or concepts. | Insufficient evidence of understanding and application; important elements missing or difficult to find. | No presentation is attempted. |
| F | Unacceptable | Difficult to recognize as the assigned task. | No constructive participation; destructive; demeaning toward other points of view. |

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS

- GMU Policies and Resources for students
 - a. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/>].
 - b. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].
 - c. 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.
 - d. 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/>].
 - e. 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/>].
 - f. Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
 - g. 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/>].

- Professional Dispositions

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

- Core Values Commitment

The College of Education & Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles. <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>

- For GSE Syllabi:

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