# GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ADVANCED STUDIES IN TEACHING AND LEARNING PROGRAM

### EDUC 615.001 EDUCATIONAL CHANGE

2 credits, Spring 2015 CRN 13630

### **Meeting Days/Times**

Thursday, January 22 – March 26, 7:20-10 p.m. Location: Thompson 2021

#### **PROFESSOR**

Nancy Holincheck, Ph.D., NBCT Skype ID: nancy.holincheck

Office Hours: Before or after class,

By appointment online via Skype or Collaborate

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### **COURSE DATES/TIMES**

Our course runs for 10 weeks starting January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Classes meet on Thursday nights from 7:20-10:00 pm.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Explores influences on educational change at classroom, school, community, state, and national levels. Investigates implications of factors and influences that affect educational change.

Analyzes influences and factors, and involves students in reflecting on their own experiences.

\*Prerequisite: EDUC 612, 613, Admission to Graduate School and ASTL Program\*

### LEARNER OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1. Analyze the factors, perspectives, and entities that influence educational change and reform (ASTL Learning Outcomes 5 and 7) (IB Adv Cert domains 1.1; 1.2; 1.3);
- 2. Examine their local context related to access and equity, as well as their own role as a change agent within that context (ASTL Learning Outcomes 4, 6, and 7) (IB Adv Cert domains 2.1; 2.2; 2.4);
- 3. Surface and examine their personal experiences with educational change and reform (ASTL Learning Outcomes 4 and 7) (IB Adv Cert domains 1.1; 1.2; 1.3);
- 4. Plan for improvement/change in their local context (ASTL Learning Outcomes 7 and 8) (IB Adv Cert domains 3.1; 3.2; 3.3; 3.4).

### RELATIONSHIP TO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

EDUC 615 is one of the five courses in the 12-credit, yearlong ASTL CORE. EDUC 615 is also aligned with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' (NBPTS) five core

propositions, which provide the guiding principles for *what teachers should know and be able to do*. Specifically, EDUC is aligned with the following NBPTS propositions:

<u>National Board for Professional Teaching Standards 4</u> – Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.

<u>National Board for Professional Teaching Standards 5</u> – Teachers are members of learning communities.

EDUC 615 is aligned with the additional three principles that guide the ASTL Core:

- Principle 5: Teachers are members of learning communities.
- Principle 6: Teachers account for the needs of culturally, linguistically, and cognitively diverse learners:
- Principle 7: Teachers are change agents, teacher leaders, and partners with colleagues; and
- Principle 8: Teachers use technology to facilitate student learning and their own professional development.

The content of EDUC 615 additionally aligns with aspects of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Certificate in Teaching and Learning Research, with a particular focus on the following Domains of Knowledge:

- Domains 1.1, 1.2, 1.3: Contemporary issues in IB education Identification, clarification, and articulation of contemporary issues in IB context; critical analysis of contemporary IB issues; Contextualising and interpretation of IB issues.
- Domains 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4: Research practice Application of planning and scoping process in IB contexts; Collection, analysis, interpreting and reporting of evidence; Evaluation of research activity; Reflection on and dissemination of findings and implications for practice.
- Domains 3.2, 3.3, 3.4: Linking theory to practice in an IB context Critical reading and reflection; Interpretation and evaluation of source material; Synthesizing research and experiential evidence.

### REQUIRED TEXT

Lieberman, A., & Miller, L. (2004). *Teacher leadership*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

Hargreaves, A., & Fullan, M. (2012). *Professional capital: Transforming teaching in every school.* New York, NY: Teachers College Press.

Additional selected readings to be available via Blackboard or through Mason Libraries (http://library.gmu.edu/)

### Recommended Texts

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

### **Nature of Course Delivery**

Mini-lectures, videos, and interactive discussions of readings and ongoing critical reflective practice will support learning experiences throughout the course and will complement your experiences and expose you to the major cultural perspectives, as explored through the cultural

inquiry process. Discussions may take place in class or via Blackboard. Your instructor will be available for in-person, phone, or virtual consultations to complement the support from your Critical Friends Groups

• To access our course Blackboard site, go to the MyMason portal login page at <a href="https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu">https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu</a>. Your GMU email user name is also your MyMason Portal ID and your GMU email password is also your MyMason Portal password. After logging in, click on the COURSES tab at the top of the page to see your list of courses, then select EDUC 606.

### **General Requirements**

- A. Class attendance is both important and **required**. If, due to an emergency, you will not be in class, you must *contact your instructor prior to class time*. Learners with more than two absences may drop a letter grade or lose course credit.
- B. All assignments are due no later than 11:59 PM EDT of the date indicated in each week's assignments published in the COURSE SCHEDULE AND TOPICS section of this Syllabus. Due dates are also posted on our Bb course site.
  - a. Grades for assignments date-stamped in Blackboard after the due date will be reduced by 10%, unless prior approval from instructor has been granted. No late submissions will be accepted after the course end date.
  - b. Assignments earning less than a passing grade may be rewritten and resubmitted so that the assignment is satisfactorily completed. In fact, because learning is the goal, I may *require* you to redo an assignment that is far below expectations.
- C. Please adhere to the assignment submission instructions listed in this syllabus. Only assignments submitted as indicated will be graded; incorrect submissions will result in a grade of zero for those assignments.
  - **a.** All assignments submitted should have the filename format LASTNAME-ASSIGNMENT TITLE. Please do not upload written assignments in PDF format. Other editable formats are acceptable (i.e., .doc, .docx, .rtf, .ppt, .pptx, .xlsx, .xlsx). Supporting documents for assignments can be in PDF format.
- D. *All written work* should be carefully edited for standard grammar and punctuation, as well as clarity of thought. All submitted work should be prepared through word processing and reflect APA style (6<sup>th</sup> edition), as well as double-spaced, with 1" margins, and 12-point font (Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial).

**Course Assignments and Evaluation Criteria** 

Course Outcome Alignment	Assignment	Points
1, 3	Weekly Work/Class Participation	40
1	Critical Friend Group tasks	10
2, 4	Equity Audit, Policy Brief, and Action Plan (PBA)	45
	Reflection Point 5	5
	Total	100

### Weekly Work

This course operates with the assumption that knowledge is socially constructed and the most meaningful learning opportunities are those where you have the opportunity to offer and explore diverse perspectives with peers. To do this, you are expected to regularly contribute to classroom discussions and online discussion forums, as well as to genuinely 'listen' to peers as they do the same. Agreement is not mandatory; consideration and respect are. This means that you must be "present" throughout all discussions and activities. It is expected that you connect, question, and extend the discussion in class and in blackboard discussion posts by citing readings, weekly content, and your personal experiences. In addition to being present in each class, weekly work also includes quality participation in class discussions and/or discussion forums. See the Weekly Work rubric in this syllabus for grading criteria- page 10.

### Critical Friend Group tasks

There will be instances when you will be tasked with being a critical friend to a peer(s). This will entail aiding in such tasks as data analysis, brainstorming problems/solutions, and offering feedback. See the CFG rubric in this syllabus for grading criteria- page 14.

Equity Audit, Policy Brief, and Action Plan (EDUC 615 Performance Based Assessment)

Teacher leaders affect change within their sphere of influence. To do this, teacher leaders need to actively inform themselves about their local context and the opportunities and outcomes related to students within that context. To become an informed teacher leader, you will complete an audit of your school. This audit will focus on indicators of equity for various groups of students in your school. After collecting and analyzing the audit data, you will pick one piece of the data that you find the most compelling. This data will be the foundation for a policy brief that synthesizes policy and literature related to the data selected. The policy brief will then be used to create a plan of action for changing something within your school (within your sphere of influence) that will lead to improvement in a related area. See the assignment details and rubric in this syllabus for further information.

#### PROMPT FOR ASTL PORTFOLIO REFLECTION POINT 5

### (to be completed at the end of the course- ASTL program requirement) Teacher as Change Agent

In this reflection point, you will focus on how coursework, related readings, and experiences for EDUC 615 have led you to think about yourself as a change agent and teacher leader in your school and beyond. Please reflect on your own learning and your growth and change at this point in the Core. In your reflection, please address any of the applicable eight program learning outcomes and the ways in which the performance assessments included in this course and in the Core provide evidence of your knowledge.

Suggested course products which may be provided as evidence of knowledge

- Equity Study: Equity Audit, Policy Brief, and Action Plan (EDUC 615)
- Written in-class or online responses (EDUC 615)
- Other, as selected by individual (be specific)

Guidelines and Suggested Format for each of the Reflection Points

Length: Aim to limit your response to two well written pages

**Focus:** Each Reflection Point should include a short description, but will focus on *interpretation* and *analysis* of learning by synthesizing knowledge attained from that learning component of the Core coursework.

**Format:** Each reflection point *describes*, *interprets*, and *examines* why and how the course product(s) provide evidence of the ASTL principles addressed in that learning module. Here you should also discuss the impact of this course/learning module on your teaching practice *and* its impact on P-12 student learning.

#### **GRADING SCALE**

| 95-100=A | 90-94=A- | 86-89=B+ | 83-85=B | 80-82=B- | 70-79=C | Below 70=F |

### TASKSTREAM REQUIREMENTS

Every student registered for EDUC 615, Educational Change, is required to submit the following assessment, the *Equity Audit, Policy Brief, and Action Plan*, to TaskStream. Evaluation of the performance-based assessment by the course instructor will also be completed in TaskStream. Failure to submit the assessment to TaskStream will result in the course instructor reporting the course grade as Incomplete (IN). Unless the IN grade is changed upon completion of the required TaskStream submission, the IN will convert to an F nine weeks into the following semester.

### GMU POLICIES AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

- a. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <a href="http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/">http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/</a>]
- b. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <a href="http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/">http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/</a>]
- 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 experiences and academic performance [See <a href="http://caps.gmu.edu/">http://caps.gmu.edu/</a>]
- 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 the 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 <a href="http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/">http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/</a>]

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT Professional dispositions

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

### **Core values commitment**

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to *Social justice*, *Innovation*, *Research-based practice*, *Ethical leadership*, *and Collaboration*. Students are expected to adhere to these principles. [See <a href="http://cehd.gmu.edu/values">http://cehd.gmu.edu/values</a>]

### **Graduate school of education**

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

COURSE SCHEDULE EDUC 615: Spring 2015

This schedule may be changed at the discretion of the professor or as needs of the students or the ASTL Program dictate.

Week	Weekly Overview (See BB for details)				
	Weekly Overview (See BB for details)				
In-class:	Starting our conversation				
	eo: Changing Educational Paradigms cussion: Educational Policy & School Reform				
Jan. 22 • <i>Fin</i>	d and share: one news article from your local/national media that you think represents a or discourse regarding education				
Week 2 Readings:	Further defining equity and examining student opportunities and outcomes				
	ity Audit, Policy Brief, Action Plan (PBA) Description litional readings/videos posted on BB				
Week 3 Readings:	The educational policy context- historically and today				
	greaves & Fullan: Ch. 2-3				
	litional readings/videos posted on BB				
Readings:	The nature of change and school culture				
Wastr 1	greaves & Fullan: Ch. 6				
	ditional readings/videos posted on BB				
**Equi	ty Audit data should be collected by this date**				
	Teacher leadership as interrupting NO CLASS MEETING: Class will meet online this week.				
Week 5 Readings:					
Feb. 19	dings/videos posted on BB				
	nments are Due?				
• <mark>Eq</mark> ı					
Week 6 Readings:	Professional capital and teaching				
Feb. 26 Har	greaves & Fullan: Ch. 1 and 5				
• Add	litional readings/videos posted on BB				
Week 7 Readings:	Change in action Readings:				
• Har	greaves & Fullan: Ch. 7				
• Add	litional readings/videos posted on BB				
Week 8	Mason Spring Break—No class meeting				
Mar. 12	Policy Brief Draft Due, submit to BB for feedback by 3/15				

	Planning for action		
Week 9	Readings:		
Mar. 19	Readings/videos posted on BB		
	Wrapping it up		
	Readings:  • Readings/videos posted on BB		
	Tasks:		
Week 10	<ul><li>Complete course evaluations</li><li>Share action plans</li></ul>		
WCCK 10	Share action plans		
March 26	What Assignments are Due?		
	<ul> <li>Complete Equity Study: Equity Audit, Policy Brief, Action Plan (PBA) by March 29, 11:59pm (upload to Taskstream)</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Portfolio Reflection Point 5 Due by March 30, 11:59pm (upload to Blackboard Organization site (ASTL Core Cohorts Org Site)</li> </ul>		
	All reading and task items outlined in your weekly module		

### WEEKLY WORK RUBRIC

	Distinguished	Proficient	Basic	Unsatisfactory
Class Engagement	The student is engaged in all classes; is on time; is prepared; follows outlined procedures in case of absence; the student actively participates in small and/or whole group class meetings; student discusses and references course readings in thoughtful, relevant & meaningful ways;	The student is engaged in all classes; is on time; is prepared; follows outlined procedures in case of absence; the student makes active contributions to the learning group and class; student discusses course readings in relevant ways.	The student may be late or miss class more than once; is prepared for class; participates at least peripherally in group and class discussions; The student is somewhat engaged in all classes; if an absence occurs, the procedure outlined in the syllabus is followed;	The student is chronically late for class; absences are not documented by following the procedures outlined in the syllabus; The student is not prepared for class; and does not actively participate in discussions.

### EQUITY STUDY DESCRIPTION: EQUITY AUDIT, POLICY BRIEF, AND ACTION PLAN (EDUC 615 Performance Based Assessment)

Teacher leaders effect change within their sphere of influence. To do this, teacher leaders need to actively inform themselves about their local context and the opportunities and outcomes related to students within that context. They need engage in praxis- the process of critical reflection and action. To become an informed and critical teacher leader, you will complete an audit of your school. This audit will focus on indicators of equity for various groups of students in your school. After collecting and analyzing the audit data, you will pick one piece of the data that you find the most compelling. This data will be the foundation for a policy brief that synthesizes policy and literature related to the data selected. The policy brief will then be used to create a plan of action for changing something within your school (within your sphere of influence) that will lead to improvement in a related area.

### **Steps**

- 1. Conduct an Equity Audit.
  - This is located on Blackboard and at the end of this document.
- 2. Analyze and interpret your audit data.
  - What does the data in each category show and what does it mean?
- 3. Select a piece of the data that you find the most compelling. Graphically depict this data.
- 4. Write a 2-3 page policy brief regarding the selected data.
  - Conduct a literature and data (regional, national, global) search.
  - The brief will contain the following sections, all drawn from your literature and data search, as well as class readings:
    - a. Why this data matters broadly (beyond your local context),
    - b. What others are doing in schools related to similar data, including the historical and current initiatives in place to address the data
- 5. Create an action plan.
  - Using the policy brief you've written, create an action plan that you will use to effect change in your local setting. Include the following sections:
    - a. Describe what is currently happening in your context. Why is it a problem?
    - b. Describe what you want to improve (what will it look like when it's improved?)
    - c. Detail what you will do, why (it should be clear that your policy brief has informed your actions), and how. This should include:
      - i. Specific steps and a corresponding timeline.
      - ii. The resources and permissions needed
        - a. Resources: human, material, from yourself
      - iii. Anticipated obstacles to implementation and proposed solutions to overcoming them
- 6. Write a 1 page reflective narrative regarding the process. Use course readings to support your reflection. Explore and respond to the following:
  - What did you learn through this process?
  - How do you consider your role and responsibility as a teacher? Has this been affected at all by this process?
  - What are your next steps in your development as a teacher leader?

Note: You will share your data and action plans with your class peers.

## EQUITY STUDY: EQUITY AUDIT, POLICY BRIEF, AND ACTION PLAN RUBRIC (EDUC 615 Performance-Based Assessment)

	Accomplished (Clear, convincing, & substantial evidence)	Competent (Clear evidence)	<b>Evolving</b> (Limited evidence)	No evidence
Equity Audit (Data Collection and Analysis)  NBPTS Learning Outcome 6 ASTL Learning Outcome 6 IB domains 1.1, 1.2, 2.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4	Data is complete and/or attempts have been made to collect all data in every category; Categories may have been adapted for relevance to local school; Analysis for each category is thoughtful; It is clear how the analysis has considered the data from various perspectives; One category of data is graphically depicted accurately 10 points	Data may be mostly complete and/or attempts may not have been made to collect all data in every category; Categories may have been adapted for relevance to local school; Analysis for each category is thoughtful; It is somewhat clear how the analysis considers the data from multiple perspectives; One category of data is graphically depicted  8-9 points	Data is incomplete and/or attempts were not made to collect all data in every category; Categories were not adapted for relevance to local school; Analysis for each category is limited or not evident; It is not clear how the analysis has considered the data from various perspectives; No data is graphically depicted or is depicted inaccurately 5-7 points	Equity audit data is not included and/or no analysis was completed  0-4 points
Policy Brief  NBPTS Learning Outcome 4 ASTL Learning Outcome 4  IB domains 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2,, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4	Policy brief is 2-3 full pages; Robust explanation of why this data matters broadly (beyond local context); Includes robust use of literature drawn from external sources and class readings; Clear and thorough description of what others are doing in schools related to similar data, including the historical and current initiatives in place to address the data 10 points	Policy brief may be 1-2 pages; Explanation of why this data matters broadly (beyond local context), but explanation may be weak; Includes some use of literature drawn from external sources and/or class readings; Includes but may be vague, description of what others are doing in schools related to similar data  8-9 points	Policy brief may be one page or less; Explanation of why this data matters broadly (beyond local context) may be missing or very weak; Includes little to no use of literature drawn from external sources and/or class readings; Very limited or missing description of what others are doing in schools related to similar data  5-7 points	Policy brief is not included or more than one section is completely missing  0-4 points
Action Plan  NBPTS Learning Outcome 7 ASTL Learning	Thoroughly and with great detail describes what is currently happening in their local context (clearly answers the question of why this data indicates a	Describes what is currently happening in their local context (answers the question of why this data indicates a problem for their students and school), but	May not describe what is currently happening in their local context or description may be limited; Description of what will be improved may be	Action plan is not included and/or multiple components of the action plan are severely limited or missing

Outcome 7  IB domain 2.4, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4	problem for their students and school); Describes with specificity what will be improved; Offers in great detail what will be done, why (it is very clear that the policy brief has informed intended actions), and how; Includes the specific steps and a corresponding timeline; identifies and describes the resources and permissions needed; identifies and describes thoroughly and thoughtfully the anticipated obstacles to implementation and proposed solutions	may be vague; May identify but not describe what will be improved; Offers details about what will be done, why (it is somewhat clear that the policy brief has informed intended actions), and how; Includes specific steps and a corresponding timeline; identifies the resources and permissions needed; identifies a few anticipated obstacles to implementation and proposed solutions but they may be cursory	missing or not clear; May offer what will be done, why, and how, but these may be disconnected or vague; It is not clear how the policy brief informed the action; The following may be missing or severely limited: the action steps and a corresponding timeline, the resources and permissions needed, anticipated obstacles to implementation and proposed solutions	
	10 points	8-9 points	5-7 points	0-4 points
Reflective Narrative NBPTS Learning Outcome 4 ASTL Learning Outcome 4 IB domain 2.4	Reflective narrative indicates strong, thoughtful reflection; Responds deeply to all three prompts; Is specific; Uses more than one course reading 5 points	Reflective narrative indicates thoughtful, but general, reflection; Responds to all three prompts; Uses at least one course reading to support points <i>4 points</i>	Reflective narrative indicates limited reflection; Responds to less than three of the prompts; Uses no course readings.  3 points	Reflective narrative is missing or exceedingly cursory  0-2 points
References  NBPTS Learning Outcome 4 ASTL Learning Outcome 4	In-text citations and a reference page are included; ALL references are properly cited in APA 6 <sup>th</sup> edition style (NO APA errors).  5 points	In-text citations and a reference page are included; references are cited in APA 6 <sup>th</sup> edition style, but may contain some minor errors.  4 points	There are multiple APA 6 <sup>th</sup> edition errors.	There is no evidence of in-text citations or a reference list  0-2 points
Overall Writing NBPTS Learning Outcome 4 ASTL Learning Outcome 4	Grammatically and stylistically well written; the narrative logically flows from one idea to the next; there are <b>NO</b> grammar errors or error patterns.  5 points	Grammatically and stylistically well written but contains a few errors or error patterns.  4 points	Contains many grammatical errors or error patterns.  3 points	Paper may be unreadable.  0-2 points

### CRITICAL FRIEND GROUP RUBRIC

	Distinguished	Competent	Unsatisfactory
CFG Engagement	Consistent participation in critical friend(s) work; meets all CFG deadlines; Quality work/questions provided to critical friends for discussion; Thoughtfully considers all perspectives raised by critical friends; Meaningful, detailed, and constructive feedback provided to critical friends	Mostly participates in critical friend(s) group work; meets almost all CFG deadlines; provides meaningful, detailed, and constructive feedback OR consistently participates in critical friends groups on time but feedback is not meaningful, detailed, and constructive; there is no evidence that critical friend perspectives have been considered	Rarely or never participates in Critical Friends Group work. Feedback is not meaningful, detailed, and constructive. Discounts critical friends' perspectives and questions
	10 pts.	8-9 pts.	0-7 pts.

### REFLECTION POINT 4 RUBRIC

	Distinguished	Proficient	Basic	Unsatisfactory
Reflection Point 4	Completely and thoroughly responds to the reflection prompt; Completed on time; submitted to Core Organization site			May not completely or thoroughly respond to the prompt; May not have been completed on time or at all; may not have been submitted to Core Organization site  0 pts.