

George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
Schar School of Policy and Government
Education Policy

EDPO 600 DL1: History of Education Reform
EDPO 885 DL1: History of Education in the United States
POGO 750 DL9: History of Education Reform
3 Credits, Spring 2024

Tuesdays 4:30pm – 7:10pm
Online – Synchronous

Faculty

Name: Prof. David Houston
Office Hours: By Appointment
Office Location:
Email Address:

Note About Cross-listing

This course is cross-listed as EDPO 600, EDPO 885, and POGO 750 to facilitate various students' course requirements. Doctoral, Masters, and Graduate Certificate students are all welcome to enroll in this class. Masters and Graduate Certificate students in the College of Education and Human Development will typically enroll in EDPO 600. Doctoral students in CEHD will typically enroll in EDPO 885. Masters and Doctoral students in the Schar School of Policy and Government will typically enroll in POGO 750. Please email the instructor if you have any questions.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

None

University Catalog Course Description

EDPO 600: Explores the history of education reform in the United States and the connections between the past and present-day policy initiatives and debates

EDPO 885: Examines the history of education in the United States and explores the social, political, cultural, and economic forces that have shaped reform initiatives. Uses history to engage questions around citizenship, equality, and democracy.

Course Overview

This course is a graduate seminar that introduces students to the history of American K-12 education and education reform through the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. Topics may include—but are not limited to—the Common School movement, Progressivism, obstacles to reform, how change can and does occur, as well as an extended inquiry into the history of school desegregation.

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered using a seminar format.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives

EDPO 600: This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Gain an understanding of the history of education reform in the United States.
2. Contextualize and uncover the roots of key reform initiatives.
3. Interrogate the connections between social policy and school policy.
4. Use history to shed fresh light on present-day school reform initiatives.
5. Hone critical thinking skills through class discussions and writing assignments.

EDPO 885: This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Gain an historical understanding of education in the United States.
2. Use history to shed fresh light on today's school controversies.
3. Analyze primary source materials.
4. Evaluate and engage with secondary source materials.

Professional Standards

Not applicable

Required Texts

Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments via Blackboard prior to the beginning of the class session when the assignment is due.

Participation

This is a participation-intensive class. Students are expected to:

1. Attend all classes and provide advance notice, if possible, if you must miss a class
2. Read all assignments prior to class and bring copies to class
3. Actively participate in discussions of the readings and treat one another with respect
4. Submit all assignments on time. Late work will be penalized by 2pts/day, unless prior arrangements are made

Course Grades

- Student presentation preferences: 5% (completion only)
- Student presentation(s): 25%
- Final paper: 30%
- Final paper presentation: 15%
- Participation: 25%

Professional Dispositions

See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>. 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 collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/> <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <https://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason 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 with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at

the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <https://ds.gmu.edu/>).

- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to VIA should be directed to viahelp@gmu.edu or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/assessments> . Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking:

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/>.