EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS (EDF)

College of Education and Social Work

Courses

EDF 506. Public Pedagogy & Radical Informal Learning Spaces. 3 Credits.
Consideration of the concept of Public Pedagogy and education that takes place outside of
traditional classrooms including learner-specific, self-directed learning and assessment.
Special focus on the emergence of radical informal learning spaces as sites of empowerment
and transformation.
Typically offered in Summer.

EDF 509. Contemporary Teaching Trends. 3 Credits.
Team teaching, programmed instruction, and various media of communication in the
elementary and secondary schools are evaluated. Effective adaptation to newer practices is
emphasized.

EDF 510. Educational Foundations. 3 Credits.
History of education, integrated with educational philosophy and thought; the long evolution
of education theory and issues.

EDF 511. Foundations of Transformative Education. 3 Credits.
An exploration of how education has been, and could be, used as an instigator of social
transformation. Students will consider the social, historical, and philosophical foundations of
education, emphasizing the interconnection between systems of education and social power
structures: political, economic, cultural, and theological.
Typically offered in Fall.

EDF 515. Legal & Financial Issues in Education. 3 Credits.
If American public education is to obtain the financial support necessary to meet legal
requirements and the expectations of its various publics, then administrative practitioners and
other supporters of public education—including academicians, researchers, policy-makers,
and lay citizens—must provide leadership in the debate concerning taxation and revenues,
resource distribution, and school management. To provide this leadership, they must possess
specific knowledge of the field of education finance—an understanding of the basic concepts
and how they are applied in practice—and the ability to bring this knowledge to bear on the
policy processes which shape decisions in the public sector. Further, they must be aware of the
fundamental constitutional and legal rights that all Americans, including children, enjoy in their
daily lives. They must also be familiar with case law, statutes, and rules, which establish
standards for education finance. This course is designed to help provide this knowledge and
develop this ability.
Typically offered in Spring.

EDF 520. Comparative Education. 3 Credits.
This course focuses on how major problems of education in a number of other countries are
related to similar problems in the United States. Contrasting purposes and philosophies, and
differences in organization and administration are analyzed.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

EDF 560. History of Latin American Educational Philosophy. 3 Credits.
This course provides an overview of key historical voices, text, and practices in the tradition
of Latin American thinking about education covering Pre-Columbian, Conquest, Liberal,
Nationalist, and Liberatory periods.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.

EDF 561. Latin American Philosophies of Education: From Colonial to Decolonial
Education Theory and Practice. 3 Credits.
The diversity of populations in Latin America and the region’s political, cultural, and economic
achievements and challenges have shaped unique education philosophies and practices.
Likewise, a variety of education philosophies and practices within the region have had
enormous sociological, political, and economic impacts on the region’s populations. The
principle aim of this course is to begin an exploration of Latin American philosophies of
education. Particular emphasis will be placed on investigating the different ways that
philosophers of Latin American education have conceptualized education as a (trans)formative
and liberatory process. Our inquiry will be guided by these questions and others: What is the
place of education in the forming of Latin American cultures, identities, epistemic paradigms,
and social movements across the region? How have Latin Americans and those who study
the region conceived “education,” “teaching,” “curriculum,” and “schooling”? How can we
trace educational theory, practices, and institutions from the pre-colonial civilizations of
the Aztecs, Incas, and others, to the communities and modern nation-states that make up
temporary Latin America? To what degree is Latin American education theory “situated”? What
does it mean to suggest that education and knowledge can be colonized? What does it
mean to suggest that people can decolonize knowledge and liberate themselves to strive in
new cultural directions? How does philosophical inquiry into these issues illuminate the quest
for justice and equality in education and civil society? And finally, how have a wide variety of
temporary Latin American social movements incorporated liberatory education practices
into their struggles for social justice?.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.

EDF 563. Latin American Epistemologies. 3 Credits.
When it comes to preparing teachers, we speak about “knowledge,” since that is the
foundational raw material with which teachers work. Nonetheless, what is knowledge?
What is knowledge for Latin Americans? Is it something generated only when teachers and
students meet together? Or is it created spontaneously? That question implies concrete,
but mostly philosophical, implications. In other words, it is an epistemological matter. This
course is devoted to showing how we have built our epistemologies growing up in Latin
America. Throughout history, foreign approaches tried to translate our thought. Currently,
many scholars and international organizations are seeking to hear directly from us. This is
why “decolonial thinking” is in vogue. Since you as an educator or teacher work with Latin
American students on a daily basis, you have the opportunity to learn what knowledge and
ways of knowing your students already have. This is related not only to what contents or skills
your students already handle. This course will show you the way in which we have grasped
our ways of knowing through our ways of being, since our cosmovisions, cultural learning,
qualitative symbols, and stories have shaped our ways to know (epistemology) the world.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.

EDF 564. Latin American Narrative Learning. 3 Credits.
This course will address how narrative learning or narrative ways of knowing are necessary
epistemological foundations to curriculum in education. Stories are themselves ways of
knowing for us, the Latin American peoples. The epistemological breakthrough that enabled
narrative learning gaining a place within educational research has been a historically difficult
process. Narrative learning can be traced back to the way in which indigenous peoples of
Latin America have made sense of reality over millennia. This idea leads to the notion of
narrative knowledge as a special form of reasoning, feeling, and grasping the world for us in
Latin America. In our countries we translate knowing into telling and telling into knowing.
Narrating or telling our knowledge is a special form of reasoning, feeling, and making sense of
reality. In this course students will learn how narratives become the key aspect of an intimate
relation between knower and the known for us. While we were growing up in Latin America,
narratives shaped the manner in which we thought about what we know and how we know
it. That process passed down from generation to generation. Thanks to the decolonial thinking
perspective in vogue, today we have the opportunity of speaking for ourselves to explain our
narrative ways of knowing and learning. Since you as an educator or teacher work with Latin
American students on a daily basis, you have the opportunity to learn what knowledge and
ways of knowing your students already have with them.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.

EDF 580. History Of American Education. 3 Credits.
Nature and direction of American education, studied through individual and group research.

EDF 581. Philosophy Of Education. 3 Credits.
Selected philosophies and their influence on educational principles and practices in a
democratic social order.

EDF 582. Seminar In The Hist Of Pros Of Educ. 3 Credits.
Historical study of the recurrent problems of education and their solutions. Implications of
these solutions for contemporary American educational problems.
EDF 583. The American School As Social Narrative. 3 Credits.
An integrated exploration of the philosophical culture, social, and physical foundations of schooling and education in the United States.

EDF 588. Critical Pedagogy and the Politics of Education. 3 Credits.
This course examines the historical development of critical pedagogy from its roots to its current models. By encouraging students to engage in a critical study of the educational system, this course seeks to aid in the development of analytical skills in regard to educational issues and provide a context within which future issues may be examined as they emerge.
Pre / Co requisites: EDF 588 requires prerequisite of EDF 511.

EDF 589. Sociological Foundations Of Education. 3 Credits.
Study of the socio-cultural influences on the structure of American educational institutions.

EDF 593. Transformative Curriculum Theory and Evaluation. 3 Credits.
The focus of this course is the investigation, critique and application of curriculum theory and evaluation, specifically as it relates to transformative teaching and learning. The students will consider a wide spectrum of curriculum theories and theorists and explore the historical roots of curriculum development and practice. This course will also provide students with the opportunity to investigate the theory and practice of curricular evaluation and various assessment techniques. Students will construct a curriculum, including an assessment plan, based on the ideas covered in the course.
Typically offered in Fall.

EDF 599. Workshop In Professional Education. 3 Credits.
Contact department for more information about this course.
Repeatable for Credit.