

**Course Syllabus**  
**EDUC 5220-W1 Contemporary Education Issues**

Instructor Information:

Stephen Houldsworth, M.Ed.

Office: Garden Park Plaza 121, Webster University, 470 E. Lockwood, St. Louis, MO 63119

Phone: (314) 961-2660, ext. 7948

Email: Click on Communications>Mail within the WebCT Course or [houldsst@webster.edu](mailto:houldsst@webster.edu)

Description:

This course is an introduction to education foundations. The historical development of educational issues are explored, and the philosophical and sociological influences relevant to current educational concerns are noted.

Objectives:

This course will enable the participants to:

- 1) develop a familiarity with important thinkers who have influenced educational philosophies and practices;
- 2) examine historical issues and relate them to current ones;
- 3) read and synthesize written materials on the topics; and,
- 4) conduct an in-depth investigation on an educational issue and present their findings

Procedures for achieving the objectives:

The objectives will be met through online class activities and assignments, other readings, library research, field studies, reports, and one in-depth term project.

Readings:

Gutek, G.L. (1991). *An Historical Introduction to American Education*. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland. Additional readings will be assigned from library materials, periodicals (newspapers, professional journals, monographs, etc.), and websites.

Attendance/participation:

Class members are responsible for completing all online discussion, activities, and assignments by posted due dates.

Grading procedures:

Class members will be evaluated on:

- 1) satisfactory completion of term project;
- 2) news analyses and scrapbook;
- 3) class presentation (Powerpoint) on an historical figure in education; and
- 4) participation in class discussions (including reactions to readings, current topics, and peer presentations), group activities, and other online assignments

Topical Overview, Activities, and Readings: (subject to change)

Week 1	Introduction to an overview of the course; What are “Contemporary Education Issues?”; Perspectives on current issues
Week 2	Resource exploration methods; Perspectives on current issues (continued)
Week 3	Historical Bridging Methodology; Education in Colonial America and Revolutionary Era; Relevance to current issues; Group discussion of news articles, individual reports; Readings: Gutek: Chapters 1 & 2
Week 4	Methods for relating current issues to ideas presented by early American thinkers
Week 5	Educational Alternatives; The Common School; Discussion of current readings and news articles, individual reports; Readings: Gutek: Chapters 3 & 4; New Analysis (Patterns of Current Issues) and Scrapbook due.
Week 6	The Common School & Criticisms (continued)
Week 7	“The Personal Connections Method”; Preliminary ERIC search results due
Week 8	American higher education; individual reports; news articles; discussion relating historical and current views. Readings: Gutek: Chapter 5
Week 9	Evolution of American teacher education; Readings: Gutek, Chapter 6
Week 10	The Progressive Movement; individual presentations and discussion; news articles; Readings: Gutek, Chapter 7; Historical Figures Presentation due.
Week 11	Pragmatism, Experimentalism, & Progressivism; Readings: Gutek, Chapter 8
Week 12	The New Frontier and the Great Society
Week 13	Educational issues 1970-present; Readings: Gutek, Chapters 9 & 10
Week 14	The Recent Past: Educational Reform; Term project due
Week 15	Analysis of visually-oriented materials
Week 16	Course summary and evaluation; discussion of term projects