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## COURSE SYLLABUS

### EDUC 5220 Contemporary Educational Issues

**Instructor:** Dr. Frances Powell

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

**Objectives:** This course will enable participants to: (a) develop a familiarity with important thinkers who have influenced educational philosophies and practices; (b) examine historical issues and relate them to current ones; (c) read and synthesize written materials on the topic; and (d) conduct an in-depth investigation on a educational issue and present their findings in oral and written form.

**Procedures for achieving the objectives:** The above objectives will be met through online class activities and assignments, other readings, library research, field studies and reports and one in-depth term project.

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

**Attendance / participation policy:** Class participants are responsible for completing all online class discussion, activities and assignments by posted due dates.

**Grading Procedures:** Class participants will be evaluated on (a) satisfactory completion of term project; (b) news analyses and scrapbook; (c) class presentation (PowerPoint) on a historical figure in education; and (d) participation in class discussions (including reactions to readings, current topics, peer presentations), group activities and other online assignments.

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

1. Introduction to and overview of the course; What are "Contemporary Educational Issues?" Perspectives on a current issues
2. Resource exploration methods. perspectives on a current issue (continued)
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.
4. Methods for relating current issues to ideas presented by early American thinkers.
5. Educational Alternatives; The Common School. discussion of current readings and news articles; individual reports. Readings: Gutek: Chapters 3, 4. News analysis (Patterns of Current Issues) and Scrapbook due.
6. The Common School & Criticisms (continued)
7. "The Personal Connections Method". Preliminary ERIC search results due.(continued)
8. American higher education; individual reports; news articles; discussion relating historical and current views. Readings: Gutek: Chapters 5

9. Evolution of American teacher education; Readings: Gutek, Ch. 6
10. The Progressive movement; individual presentations and discussion; news articles; Readings: Gutek: Chapter 7. Historical Figures Presentation due.
11. Pragmatism, Experimentalism & Progressivism. Readings: Gutek: Chapter 8.
12. The New Frontier and the Great Society.
13. Educational issues 1970-present; Readings: Gutek: Chapters 9, 10
14. The Recent Past: Educational Reform; Term project due.
15. Analysis of visually-oriented materials
16. Course summary and evaluation; discussion of term projects.

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*Updated: 8/03/02 Subject to change*