EDMS 500 History and Philosophy of Education in the United States

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Course Description: The History and Philosophy of Education in the United States is a required course for students entering on the specially designed M. Ed. program beginning or continuing in the spring semester of 2013 for participating teachers from either Catholic schools or St. Aloysius. This course will be offered at Notre Dame Academy in Park Hills. This course and the other three initial courses there are being taught by experienced practitioners of public and private education whose experience and commitment to education in the United States, and Catholic education in particular, will provide a special lens for presentation and discussion of the course content. In a similar way, all the students of the course are active in education and, therefore, bring their experience and seasoned judgment to the reception and discussion of course content.

Goals and Objectives: The goal of the course is to provide an experienced educator and beginning graduate student with a theoretical and personal framework for understanding what is involved in education today in the United States as a foundation for further study of and further involvement in American education. American education as part of the development of the new national community in the United States is a remarkable historical and cultural phenomenon, especially in the development of the Catholic school system. The course begins in Colonial times with study of that phenomenon and its developing tradition to the present day, especially the nineteenth century wave of immigration that led to the Catholic school system.

That historical development, both in general and in the particular phenomenon of Catholic education, rests on certain theoretical and philosophic presuppositions, and the course continues with study and discussion of these presuppositions and the literature from which they come.

Those presuppositions are not without challenge from the educational community at large and from the particular educational communities served by the students. The course will also study that challenge in the information, opinions, and research that animate the current discussion, including the impact of recent cultural issues and the increased insistence of federal legislation on school reform that demands state and local accountability.

Required Texts: There is no required text for this course, but articles, book sections, and other material will be posted on the Xavier University Library electronic reserve or provided to the students in hard copy or electronic files. Students will receive an XU All-Card whose number will allow access to the library and the reserve. A list of readings and their due dates will be provided to the students.

Recommended Reading: Most of classroom lecture time will be based on these two texts.


Xavier University Attendance Policy: Reasonable attendance at all class meetings of courses for which a student has registered is expected of students as a condition for the granting of academic credit. Lack of reasonable attendance as determined by the individual faculty member is reason for the denial of credit for a course and possible failure.

Class Absence Procedure: Absences for this once-a-week class should be rare and must be reported by email to bueterr@xavier.edu by 5:00 PM the day before the class or, failing that, to the instructor by phone (513-745-2869) one hour before the beginning of class. The student is responsible for all matters covered during the missed class. Fully excused absences—sickness, other academic responsibility, family emergency—will be entitled to full credit and the instructor will work with the student to make up work. Permissible absences—professional obligations or other special circumstances—with the advance concurrence of the instructor will be entitled to full credit but the student must make the initiative to make up all work. Unexcused absences—no prior notification of an excusable absence or no concurrence by the instructor with a suggested permissible absence—will receive no credit for the work missed and no opportunity to make it up.

Cheating / Plagiarism: Cheating and/or plagiarism will result in no credit for the assignment/test and will be reported according to the appropriate Xavier University policy.

Final Grade Determination:
- Quizzes on Assigned Readings and Class Content 25%
- Written Assignments and Class Discussion 25%
- Midterm Exam 25%
- Final Exam 25%

Grading Scale:
- 93% - 100%  A
- 90% - <92%  A-
- 87% - <89%  B+
- 84% - <86%  B
- 81% - <83%  B-
- 78% - <80%  C+
- 75% - <77%  C
- 72% - <74%  C-
- < 70%   F