

**Oakland University**  
**School of Education and Human Services**  
**Department of Teacher Development and Educational Studies (TDES)**

**TD5000**  
**Introduction of School and Society**  
**Fall 2018 2 Credits**

**Location: 314 Pawley Hall**  
**Times: 5:30-8:50pm**

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**Course description:**

This course provides an introduction to educational issues including: purposes of schooling, history, choice, diversity, public education, accountability, uses of technology, ways of learning and roles and conditions of teaching.

Within these topics, we will pay most attention to issues of contemporary educational policy and reform as they affect Public schools.

**Prerequisites:**

None

**Suggested texts:**

1. *The Death and Life of the Great American School System* by Dianne Ravitch (2000)
2. Levine, D., Lowe, R., Peterson, B., Tentorio, R. (Eds) (1995). *Rethinking Schools: An Agenda for Change*. New York, NY: The New Press.
3. Articles provided by the professor

**Course topics:**

1. Influence of corporate ideas and market-based reform on educational policy
2. How philanthropists, businesses, and non-education groups shape educational policy
3. The roles of tests to punish, sanction, and shape schools
4. The roles of tests to evaluate teacher performance
5. The characteristics of successful school systems around the world

## **Key concepts you should know and use after this course**

1. Choice and competition
2. Deregulation
3. Market-driven reforms, marketplace
4. Privatization
5. Incentives and sanctions
6. Value added measurements
7. Social class and educational disparities
8. Accumulation by dispossession
9. Hidden Curriculum
10. Democratic Education
11. Meta-narrative/counter narrative

## **Attendance and in-class expectations**

Attendance will be taken at the start of each class. My expectation is that students will miss class only when circumstances outside of their control make it necessary. In such an instance, it is courtesy to let me know before class by email that you will be absent. Regardless of this courtesy, missing class means missing information, activities, and experiences that simply cannot be made up.

## **Electronic devices in class**

You are permitted to use any electronic devices and social media in class as long as it directly relates to what we are doing. This means you can look up info, post, tweet, etc. about what is happening in class as long as it is done in a constructive and educative manner. This should be done in moderation (i.e., you should not be staring at an iPhone all class) and not significantly pull you away from class. As a contrast, please do not read or reply to text messages or emails or use media like Facebook and Twitter just to see what other people are up to. In other words, let's only use media as a way to enhance class and connect what is happening in class to people outside these walls. As necessary, I reserve the right to have "no media" portions of class so that we can be fully present.

## **Late assignments**

Assignments are due through Moodle or in hard copy on a date indicated in the syllabus, on Moodle or negotiated in class consultations.

If there are extenuating circumstances that require you to turn in an assignment late, please notify me of these ahead of time so we can make the necessary arrangements.

### **Email and communication policy**

All email communication must take place through Oakland University email. This is for legal reasons. Consequently, I will not respond to emails from personal/non-OU email servers (e.g., google, yahoo). If you do not check your OU email regularly, please set up a forward function so messages forward to the email account you check regularly.

### **Academic conduct policy**

Students are expected to submit assignments that conform to university policies governing dishonesty and misconduct. Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious at Oakland University. All allegations of academic misconduct will be reported to the Dean of Students and, thereafter, to the Academic Conduct Committee for adjudication. Anyone found guilty of cheating in this course might receive a failing course grade, in addition to any penalty assigned by the Academic Conduct Committee. Please refer to the Oakland University Graduate Catalogue to read the full Academic Conduct Policy.

### **Brief Explanation of Assignments (full details on Moodle)**

#### **Methods of evaluation: Assignments**

Students who complete each assignment should not assume that full credit would be given. The quality of the assignment will be considered during the evaluation process. Quality refers to, but is not limited to the following: degree of professional insight, the use of standard English, neatness, manner of presentation, and timeliness. Evidence of quality that exceeds instructor's normal expectations of pre-service teachers must be apparent to receive full credit. Please type all assignments in 12-point font and conform to the guidelines of the APA manual. Please retain a copy of all of your work for your own records. At times, students fall into unexpected challenges during the semester. For example, OU students tend to be under more stress than the average college student is (many of you work full-time, you have to commute, etc.). If this happens to you, be sure to inform your instructor as soon as possible so you can work out a plan together that keeps you on a successful track in this course. Please familiarize yourself with the incomplete policy found in your catalogue in case of dire circumstances and you need to take this route.

## Assessments:

### **SEE MODULE FOR FULL DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **Participation, Involvement and Contribution (34%)**

This includes attendance, participation in learning activities, in class discussions, on-line assignments.

#### **Final Written Reflection on Semester Content and Process (33%)**

Students will complete a reflective narrative of their experience of the course resources, activities, processes and field observations. This essay is to be completed a minimum of one day prior to final individual oral examination and will provide one basis for questions and topics to be explored at the oral examination.

#### **Final Individual Oral Examination and Self-Evaluation (33%)**

Students will be responsible for scheduling and meeting with the instructor for a one-on-one, 15 minute final oral examination. Each student may bring any resources from the course and their individual research to the examination. Eligibility for this exam is contingent upon the student's final written reflection having been submitted 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time, and the student providing a completed self-evaluation at the meeting.

**RUBRICS FOR ALL ASSESSMENTS WILL BE POSTED ON MODDLE**

**Office of the Registrar  
Letter Grade Scale FAQs**

**When is the new grade scale effective?**

Fall 2018

**What happens to grades earned prior to fall 2018?**

The OU transcript and record will remain unchanged.

**What is the new grading system?**

Grade	Honor Points
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
F	0.0

**Who decides how letter grades are assigned in a class?**

OU does not have a University grading scale. The class syllabus will list the standards for grading in a class. Grading standards are determined by the academic unit.

**If a student earned a grade that no longer exists how does that impact prerequisites or degree requirements?**

For prerequisites, many prerequisite requirements were updated to reflect the new grading system. If the requirements have not been changed, students may receive a prerequisite override by working with academic advising or faculty advising.

For degree requirements, a Petition of Exception (POE) is required.

**Will cumulative GPA still be calculated, or will a student only have letter grades?**

The transcript will continue to list a GPA for the current semester, a cumulative GPA and an overall GPA. Individual class grades will be letter grades rather than a GPA.

