Georgia Highlands College

EDUC 2110: Critical and Contemporary Education

CRN#: 81265

Credit Hours: 3

Fall Semester, 2022

Class: Asynchronous

Midterm: September 23

Final Exam: December 6

No work of any kind will be accepted after 11:59 pm on December 6

**Course Description**

This course engages students in observations, interactions, and analyses of critical and contemporary educational issues. Students will investigate issues influencing the social and political contexts of educational settings in Georgia and the United States. Students will actively examine the teaching profession from multiple vantage points both within and outside the school. Against this backdrop, student will reflect on and interpret the meaning of education and schooling in a diverse culture and examine the moral and ethical responsibilities of teaching in a democracy.

**Contact Information**

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**Office Hours**

Appointments available by request. We can meet by email or phone

**Class communications**

Communication will be conducted primarily on D2L. All news/announcements related to the course are posted in the “Announcements” section of D2L. Each assignment is posted as an announcement.

**General Information**

1. You are expected to check your GHC email and D2L daily.
2. All work must be submitted digitally in the appropriate Dropbox/Assignment on D2L.
3. All work is due at 11:59 on Tuesday and Friday night unless otherwise noted. Refer to the calendar on D2L for the appropriate Tuesday and Friday for each assignment.
4. The assignments (unit assignments, paper/project) are already open but there is a due date for each. You may submit assignments ahead of time but they will not be graded until after the due date. You may submit unit assignments, the paper, or the project after the due date but you will be penalized one point for each day that you are late. A late assignment receives partial points. If you do not turn in an assignment you receive zero points.
5. All discussions are already open but there is a due date for each discussion. The discussion closes at its due date and will not reopen. You cannot make up discussions. Discussions close at 11:59 pm on Tuesday night. Once the discussion is closed you cannot make it up.
6. At the end of the semester, all Dropboxes/Assignments will close at a date specified in the D2L calendar.. No work will be accepted after that time.
7. All of the assignments, discussions, paper /project, midterm and final are open at the beginning of the semester. This allows you to do work ahead of time. There are still due dates for each assignment, paper/project, discussions, midterm and final. You will be penalized for missing due dates. Watch the announcements and the D2L calendar for due dates.

**Course Outcomes**

Upon completion of the activities, exercises and experiences in the class and the field experience, the student will achieve the following standards:

Future educators understand and can apply the disciplinary knowledge from the humanities and social sciences to interpret the meanings of education and schooling in diverse and contemporary contexts. Future educators understand and can apply normative perspectives on education and schooling in contemporary contexts. Future educators understand and can apply critical perspectives on education and schooling. educators understand and can apply moral and ethical principles related to democratic institutions can inform and direct schooling practice, leadership, and governance.

Future educators understand the full significance of diversity in a democratic society and how that bears on instruction, school leadership, and governance. Future educators understand how philosophical and moral commitments affect the process of evaluation at all levels of schooling practice, leadership and governance.

By the end of the course, the student will:

Investigate and describe contemporary schools and the interplay of school and society via selected social, historical, political, economic, philosophical, and cultural issues that influence those schools.

Discover, explore, and describe the current issues and trends in schools (e.g., bullying, curriculum mandates, vouchers, privatization, testing and evaluation, federal and state policy, reform initiatives, standards, and changes in curriculum) using disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields and the lenses of analyses, critique, and interpretation.

Analyze their legal, ethical, and professional responsibilities as future teachers.

Explore their core values and reflect on how their values influence their beliefs about “good” teaching and schooling in democratic contexts.

Develop and refine a philosophy of teaching for contemporary schools by exploring who they are as a potential teacher (e.g., examining their own agendas and prejudices as they relate teaching and learning) and what dispositions they have for teaching diverse student in current Georgia and U.S. school contexts.

Analyze the implications, benefits, and challenges concerning the use of technology in contemporary Georgia and U.S. classrooms.

**Class Norms**

You are expected to maintain a professional demeanor for this course. You will be asked to respond in discussion and will have the opportunity to express your opinion. Other students will be giving their opinions. You are expected to respect the opinions of others.

**Tobacco-Free Campus**

Georgia Highlands College prohibits the use of tobacco products on any property owned, leased, or controlled by GHC. All faculty, staff, students, visitors, vendors, contractors, and all others are prohibited from using any tobacco products (i.e., cigarettes, eCigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, etc.) while on GHC property.

**Extended Absence Policy**

Students, who have circumstances that prevent them from continuing to attend to class matters over an extended period of time, sometimes request that the faculty member permit them to submit work in absentia to receive credit to complete the course. If the concurrent absences will constitute more than 15% of the class sessions for the term, then written permission from the Division Chair is required before any course assignments can be completed while missing class. The student must be in good academic standing in the course to make the request. All approved coursework must be completed by the end of the semester in which the course was begun.

**Midterm and Final Exam**

The midterm and final exam are scheduled as online exams. The dates for both exams are listed at the beginning of this syllabus.

**Make-Up Work**

All assignments are open at the beginning of the semester giving the student adequate time to submit the assignment. You may submit work prior to the due date if you would like to get ahead. You may submit work after the due date to the D2L Dropbox. Points will be deducted for submission after the due date. One point for each calendar day past the due date will be deducted. Discussions cannot be made up. Dropboxes will close at a designated time at the end of the semester as noted on the D2L calendar. No work will be accepted after this time.

**Student Conduct and Academic Integrity**

Policies on student conduct and academic integrity are located in the GHC “Student Guide and Planner” and in the Student Handbook at www.highlands.edu/campuslife/handbook .

**Disability Statement**

If you feel that you need accommodation(s) due to a disability, please feel free to discuss this with me early in the semester.\* Georgia Highlands College has resources available for students with certain disabilities. Accommodations (such as providing materials in alternative formats, assuring physical access to classrooms or being sensitive to interaction difficulties that may be posed by communication and/or learning disabilities) may be made through Student Support Services on all campuses. For more information please contact 706-295-6336.

**Financial aid**

Federal regulations state that if a student did not attend classes and received failing grades, then the grades were not earned and financial aid needs to be reduced accordingly. **Please be advised that any students receiving a 0.00 GPA will be required to prove that the 0.00 GPA was earned by attending classes or completing course requirements for each class.** Students who have earned at least one passing grade for the semester will not be affected by this regulation. If a student has properly withdrawn from all classes, the student’s financial aid should be adjusted from the time they signed the withdrawal form.

**Textbook**: There is no textbook for this course. You will be directed to various websites and readings to cover the material for the course. If you would like to purchase a reference text then you should consider the following text: Teachers, Schools, And Society, Tenth Edition, Sadker, Sadker, and Zittleman. Other editions will also be adequate. You will also access online materials for some of the class assignments.

**Student Materials**

Students will have access to course materials by assessing D2L. Each class unit will be presented on D2L. Each Unit on D2L has an assignment which is to be submitted to the Dropbox. The midterm and the final come from these parts of each unit. It is each student’s responsibility to check D2L regularly to access the necessary materials for all class sessions.

**Topic Outline**

The following topics will be covered in EDUC 2110. These topics will allow the student to meet the standards and objectives for the course, using personal reflection, analysis, and development of ideas within the framework of the contemporary educational system in both Georgia and the United States.

Unit 1: The History of Education in the United States and Georgia

Unit 2: Philosophy of Education

Unit 3: The Organization, Governance, and Financing of Schools

Unit 4: School Law and Ethics

Unit 5: The Stakeholders in the School Setting

Unit 6: Challenges and Issues in American Schools

Unit 7: The Impact of Society on the Classroom

Unit 8: The Development of the Curriculum

Unit 9: Assessment and Its Role in the School

Unit 10: The Classroom

**Assignments**

Discussions: Discussions are an integral part of this course. The discussions are presented in such a way as to allow you to express your opinion about a variety of topics related to the course. Each discussion begins with a Discussion prompt. You will need to respond to the prompt. You need to respond to at least one other student’s post.

Unit Assignment: Each unit will have an assignment/project posted on D2L in the Unit modules under “Content.” The unit assignments are designed to help you begin to learn strategies/methods that will help you in your own future classroom.

Project: There is one project for this course. The information for the project is posted on D2L.

Exams: The midterm and final exam are online. Both exams are 50 question exams that are based on the PPT, readings in each unit.

Field Experience: The Field Experience (FE) is conducted in a virtual environment. You will observe a series of videos of actual classrooms and then develop a journal describing your observations.

**Grading**

All grades will be based on the Grading Policy of Georgia Highlands College.

Weekly Discussions: 20 points each, total = 100 points

Unit assignments: 30 points each, total = 300 points

Project: 50 points

Field Experience: 200 points

Midterm: 50 points

Final Exam: 100 points

Point Totals

Discussions 200 points

Unit assignments 300 points

Project 50 points

Field Experience 200 points

Midterm 50 points

Final 100 points

Total 900 points

You may submit Unit assignments, papers/projects after the due date to the D2L dropbox. Points will be deducted for submission after the due date. One point is deducted for each day the assignment is late. You cannot make up discussions.

Grades are posted on the Georgia D2L Gradebook as assignments are completed and graded. Students are expected to monitor their grades as the semester progresses. Any discrepancy in a grade must be addressed within one week after the posting. Following one week after posting, the grade will stand as posted on the D2L Gradebook.

**Grading Scale**

800-900 points – A

700-799 points – B

600-699 points – C

500-599 points – D

Less than 500 points – F

**Class Calendar**

The D2L calendar will serve as the official calendar for the class. All assignments and their due dates will be posted on the D2L calendar.