

EDG 2021 Critical Issues in Education – Fall 2023

Class/Section Numbers- 22787 & 22788

Online Canvas Course - <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/487066>

Instructor: Dashana Lane

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Zoom Office Hours: By appointment

COVID-19 Statement

As we navigate life and learning during ongoing pandemics, my priority is to be flexible and understanding when personal accommodations are necessary. While fostering a socially connected learning community is important, our physical and mental health matter most; though a worthy learning environment is our aim, our well-being will take precedence over intellectual growth. I recognize we are all doing the best we can during these unprecedented times and will act accordingly. I invite you to do the same for yourselves, one another, and me.

Course Description

In this course, we will explore a broad definition of education in a variety of contexts that go beyond traditional teacher and leader preparation. We will explore abiding issues in educational systems in the US and examine organizations and career fields that address these abiding issues. This course is designed as an introductory course for those majoring in Education Sciences but is open to any UF undergraduate student.

Course Pre-Requisites/Co-Requisites

There are no formal pre- or co-requisites to this course. It is recommended that you complete EDF 1005 prior to taking this course, but it is not a formal requirement.

Course Objectives

- Identify abiding issues in education systems in the US and outline major areas of contention in these complex problems. (Measured by informed professional participation and notes on presentations)
- Investigate and then present an overview of one educational organization (defined broadly) that claims to be focused on addressing educational issues or dilemmas. (Measured by organization presentation)
- Effectively communicate important aspects of an educational organization, including data and impact if possible. (Measured by infographic for organization)
- Outline your career intentions and create a professional plan to achieve their goals. (Measured by notes on BAES specializations and educational careers, and professional goal statement)

Required Readings/Resources

All required readings/resources (links to articles, videos, films, book chapters, etc.) will be provided through Canvas and online course reserves (ARES)

Tentative Course Schedule

| Week | Dates | Topics | Assignments Due |
|------|--|--|--|
| 1 | 8/21-8/27 (8/23 first day of class) | Introducing the course and ourselves | • Post introductory video (by 8/27) |
| 2 | 8/28-9/3 | Starting with “why” | • Post Reaction (by 9/3) |
| 3 | 9/4*-9/10 (9/4: Labor Day) | Critically examining educational issues: <i>Waiting for Superman</i> (actively watch) | • None |
| 4 | 9/11-9/17 | Critically examining educational issues: <i>Waiting for Superman</i> (respond and reflect) | • Discuss <i>Waiting for Superman</i> (due 9/17) |

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|----|------------------------------|---|---|
| 5 | 9/18-9/24 | Exploring BAES specializations and educational careers (actively watch) | • None |
| 6 | 9/25-10/1 | Exploring BAES specializations and educational careers (prepare notes) | • Submit thoughtful notes on BAES specializations and educational careers (by 10/1) |
| 7 | 10/2-10/8 | Exploring educational organizations | • Submit your educational organization choice for presentation and infographic (by 10/8) |
| 8 | 10/9-10/15 | Critically examining educational issues: school choice (actively read) | • Work on presentation/infographic |
| 9 | 10/16-10/22 | Critically examining educational issues: school choice (respond and reflect) | • Discuss school choice (due 10/22) • Work on presentation/infographic |
| 10 | 10/23-10/29 | Critically examining educational issues: language & cultural identity (actively read/watch) | • Work on presentation/infographic |
| 11 | 10/30-11/5 | Critically examining educational issues: language & cultural identity (respond and reflect) | • Discuss language and cultural identity (due 11/5) • Work on presentation/infographic |
| 12 | 11/6-11/12 (Veterans Day) | Office hours/workshopping | • Work on presentation/infographic • Infographic Due Next Week** |
| 13 | 11/13-11/19 | Group feedback on presentations | • Submit infographic (by 11/19) |

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|----|--|--|---|
| 14 | 11/20-11/26 (Thanksgiving Holiday Week Break) | | • None |
| 15 | 11/27-12/3 | Presenting educational organizations – learning with and from each other | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss presentations (11/27-12/3) • Submit notes on presentations (by 12/3) |
| 16 | 12/4-12/06 | Articulating professional goals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit professional goal statement (by 12/6) |

*Please note: I may modify this schedule depending upon how the course is proceeding in order to maximize the learning experience.

Evaluation of Grades

| Assignment | Percentage of Final Grade |
|---|---------------------------|
| Informed Professional Participation | 25% |
| Organization Presentation | 30% |
| Infographic for Organization | 15% |
| Notes on BAES Specializations and Educational Careers and Presentations | 15% |
| Professional Goal Statement | 15% |
| Total | 100% |

Assignments

Informed Professional Participation (25%)

- It is expected that you participate actively in all online activities as this is a student-centered, discussion-based class. Each week you should read/watch/listen to the assigned materials. You will be asked to respond most weeks, whether in a discussion forum with peers, through self-reflection, and/or to me directly. There are multiple and varied opportunities to demonstrate you have engaged the material and made connections to other course content, your personal and professional experiences, and societal events, phenomena, and trends.
- This course is dependent upon your thoughtful and consistent participation. You should engage in professional and respectful communication and meaningfully respond to questions/comments from your colleagues and myself.

Organization Presentation (30%)

- You will choose an educational organization for your project, either from a list I will provide, or of your own choosing with approval. You will explore the purpose, mission/vision, and activities of this organization, along with possible opportunities for internships/volunteer experiences. You will interview a member of the organization and include information from this interview in your presentation. Your presentation can be a PowerPoint, Prezi, Google Slides, or another appropriate format with approval. You will submit and share your presentation online during the final weeks of

Infographic (15%)

- You will create and submit an infographic for the educational organization you selected for your project that communicates the essential aspects of the organization, including data, stakeholders affected, and impact (if possible).

Notes on BAES Specializations, Educational Careers, and Presentations (15%)

- You will take and submit notes about the BAES specializations and educational career videos and on your colleagues' organization presentations.

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Professional Goal Statement (15%)

- You will craft and submit a professional goal statement outlining the professional areas of this BAES major that interest you and the steps you'd like to take during this program to achieve your career

Final Grade Determination

The purpose of this course is to meaningfully engage in collaborative learning processes. While all of you are capable of earning an A, simply completing the assignments does not constitute an A grade. Instead, the final determination of the course grade relies primarily on the **quality** of your work throughout the semester.

| Percent | Grade |
|---------|-------|
|---------|-------|

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|------------|---|
| 93.0 – 100 | A |
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| 90.0 – 92.9 | A- |
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| 87.0 – 89.9 | B+ |
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| 83.0 – 86.9 | B |
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| 80.0 – 82.9 | B- |
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| 77.0 – 79.9 | C+ |
|-------------|----|

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 73.0 – 76.9 | C |
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70.0– 72.9 C-

67.0 – 69.9 D+

60.0 – 66.9 D

0 – 59.9 E

Course and University Policies

Incomplete Grades

An incomplete grade may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor as an interim grade for a course in which the student has completed a major portion of the course with a passing grade, been unable to complete course requirements before the end of the term because of extenuating circumstances, and obtained an agreement from the instructor and arranged for resolution of the incomplete grade. Instructors are not required to assign incomplete grades.

Attendance Expectations

Since this is a fully online course, the content is available to you all week, making attendance more flexible. However, this online course does have expectations for regular attendance and participation. You should log into Canvas and access the course on the first few days of the semester so I know you are “present”. You should also log into the course at least once a week to access readings/resources and to complete the required activities. If you do need to “miss” a week of activity in Canvas, please communicate with me in advance so it can be considered an excused absence. As per UF policy, any missed work must be made up, even if the absence is excused. The expectation is that all work will be submitted on time, but we are living and learning in ways like never before, so please communicate early and often with me if you need additional time to complete an assignment.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drcLinks to an external site.>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will

receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/Links to an external site.>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.eduLinks to an external site.>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/Links to an external site.>.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) [Links to an external site.](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

Zoom meetings may be audio and/or visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live, primarily due to health-related concerns. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html> [Links to an external site.](#)

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) [Links to an external site.](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) [Links to an external site.](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#) [Links to an external site.](#)

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department websiteLinks to an external site.](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center websiteLinks to an external site.](#).

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk Links to an external site.](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

[Career Connections CenterLinks to an external site.](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

[Library SupportLinks to an external site.](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

[Teaching CenterLinks to an external site.](#): Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint ProcessLinks to an external site.](#).

[1] UF Grades and Grading

Policies: