Philosophy, Ethics and Education

ED 5010
Fall 2013
PSU Campus, Concord, NH

Instructor: Dr. Richard W. Ayers
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Course Description:

A study of the historical, philosophical, and social-philosophic foundations of education. Emphasis is placed upon the ideas of the classical, medieval, Enlightenment, and post-Enlightenment periods that have influenced types of American educational systems relative to their mission and purpose. Analysis of how these systems have defined ethics and the characteristics of the virtuous person.

Intended Outcomes:

The study of Philosophy and Ethics as related to the culture of education is intended to secure your understanding and expressions in the following:

- The philosophical foundations of education and relevance to teaching, learning and leadership in 21st century schools and communities
- The critical examination of a variety of ethical dilemmas using a framework and/or notations of historical or contemporary philosophers
- To critique both sides of contemporary dilemmas in education such as equity, curriculum, inclusion, and pedagogy
- To construct your own philosophy of teaching statements and synthesis of ethical issues

Required Texts:

Noddings, Nel. Philosophy of Education (Third Edition)
Shapiro, Joan Polinar et al. *Ethical Leadership and Decision Making in Education (Third Edition)*

**Recommended Texts:**

Hansen, David T. *Ethical Visions of Education*

Gaarder, Jostein. *Sophie’s World.*


**Requirements:**

Participants in ED 5010 will be expected to:

- Attend all classes and participate in classroom discussions
- Present well-thought and expressed written work indicative of graduate level inquiry
- Complete a statement of personal philosophy of teaching and/or leadership
- Complete an in-depth profile of an individual philosopher who brings attention to the meaning of cultural or individual idea or purposeful insight.
- Complete a description of an individual or group’s insight on the elements of a “good life”.
- Completion of Final Examination composed of two essay questions.

**Grading:**

- 30% Class participation
- 60% Written assignments
- 10% Final Exam

**Grading Scale:**
A  Exceptional work as demonstrated through verbal and written expression. A representation of original thinking and insight

A-  Great work as demonstrated in ability to handle course material, express oneself orally and in writing, and thoughtful engagement

B+  Good effort, however, expression and work not at your potential

B  A satisfactory grade, however, indicates minimal effort, research and engagement

B-  Minimal engagement in class objectives

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