



COURSE SYLLABUS  
**Southeast Missouri State University**

**THE TEACHER AS PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR  
and  
THE ADMINISTRATOR AS PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR**

Department of Middle and Secondary Education

Course No. EF 596/696

Course Title: Education in American Society

Revised: Spring 2002

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

An examination of education in the social structure of America concentrating on the social forces that affect education in a pluralistic society and on the educational functions of schools and other social institutions. 3 credit hours.

II. Prerequisites

Graduate Standing for EF 696; Admitted to Alternative Certification for EF 596

III. Purposes and Objectives of the Course:

1. To develop an understanding of the sociocultural issues affecting American education.
2. To develop an understanding of the historical and political place of education in America as an instrument of social change.
3. To understand the issues, critiques, and purposes of alternative responses to questions of diversity in education.
4. To understand the context and constituencies of American society as they affect the role of education as an institution.
5. To understand current issues of reform in American education.

IV. Expectations of Students

- A. Complete reading assignments prior to class and actively participate in discussions in class.
- B. Write a reflective paper on philosophy as to the purposes of education.
- C. Write a critical response to Bell's text.
- D. Research and write formal Paper on educational issue(s).

## V. Course Topical Outline

A. Introduction	3
B. Nature of American Education	9
1. Philosophical/Ideological Context & Conflict	
2. Historical Context	
C. Education as Socialization	12
1. Institution as Mirror of the Mainstream	
2. Curriculum and Pedagogy	
3. Purposes of Social Reproduction	
4. Social Class and Education	
5. Gender and Education	
D. Education and Cultural Understandings	12
1. Nature of Culture & Ethnicity	
2. Issues of Diversity and Difference	
3. Mainstream Responses to Difference; Issues of Assimilation and Deculturalization	
4. Alternative Responses & Critiques	
5. The Issue of Race and Education	
E. Critique and Conflict in American Education	6
1. Metaphors of Teaching & Educational Purpose(s)	
2. Critical and postmodern alternatives	
F. Research as Educational Statement & Critique	3

## VI. Textbooks

- A. Bell, Derrick. (1992). Faces at the Bottom of the Well. New York: Basic Books.
- B. Readings: texts will be supplemented by additional readings of articles.

## VII. Basis for Student Evaluation

- A. Philosophy of education essay
- B. Text Review and Analysis
- C. Research paper

## VII. Bibliography

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- Eisner, Elliot and Alan Peshkin. (1990). Qualitative Inquiry in Education, New York: Teachers College Press.
- Fine, Michelle. (1991). Framing Drop-Outs, Albany, NY: SUNY Press.
- Freire, Paulo. (1970). Pedagogy of the Oppressed, New York: Herder and Herder.
- Giroux, H. (1983). Theory & Resistance in Education, Boston, MA: Bergin & Garvey.
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- Grant, Carl (Ed.). (1995). Educating for Diversity: An Anthology of Multicultural Voices, Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Grossman, Herbert. (1995). Teaching in a Diverse Society, Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- hooks, bell, and Cornel West. (1991). Breaking Bread; Insurgent Black Intellectual Life, Boston: South End Press.
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- Kanpol, B. (1994). Critical Pedagogy: An Introduction, Westport, CN: Bergin & Garvey.

Kanpol, Barry, and Peter McLaren (Eds.). (1995). Critical Multiculturalism: Uncommon Voices in a Common Struggle. Westport, CT: Bergin & Garvey.

Karier, Clarence. (1986). The Individual, Society, and Education: A History of American Educational Ideas, (2d Ed.). Chicago: Univ. of Illinois Press.

Kincheloe, Joe L., and Shirley Steinberg (Eds.). (1992). Thirteen Questions; Reframing Education's Conversation, New York: Peter Lang.

Kozol, Jonathan. (1991). Savage Inequalities; Children in America's Schools, New York: Crown Publishers.

Liston, Daniel & Kenneth Zeichner, Teacher Education and the Social Conditions of Schooling, New York: Routledge, 1991.

Lomotey, K. (Ed.). (1990). Going to School: The African American Experience, Albany: SUNY Press.

Massey, Douglas, and Nancy Denton. (1993). American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

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Nieto, Sonia. (1995) Affirming Diversity: The Sociopolitical Context of Multicultural Education (2nd Ed.), New York: Longman Publishing.

Omi, Michael, and Winant, Howard. (1986). Racial Formation in the United States, New York: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Purpel, David. (1989). The Moral and Spiritual Crisis in Education, Boston: Bergin & Garvey Publishers, Inc.

Shapiro, Svi. (1990). Between Capitalism and Democracy, New York: Bergin & Garvey Publishing.

Simon, Roger I. (1992). Teaching Against the Grain: Texts for a Pedagogy of Possibility, New York: Bergin & Garvey.

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