

Philosophical Foundations of Education

Education 605, Fall Semester 2009

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Books

- Howard Ozmon & Samuel Craver, *Philosophical Foundations of Education* (Prentice-Hall)
- Angeline Stoll Lillard, *Montessori, The Science Behind the Genius*. Oxford University Press, 2007 [<http://www.amazon.com/Montessori-Science-Angeline-Stoll-Lillard/dp/019536936X/>]
- Stephen Hicks, editor, *Philosophical Foundations of Education* booklet

Assignments and Grading

▪ Seminar	25%
▪ Participation	20
▪ Book Review of Lillard	25
▪ Final Exam	<u>30</u>
	100

On the Book Review

Address two overall questions:

- What are the major educational and philosophical themes of the book?
- What do you think about the educational and philosophical themes the book?

Give approximately equal attention to each question.

Length: 2000-2500 words.

Due: December 2.

On the Seminar

Each seminar will be a team project on one of the philosophies of education discussed in Ozmon and Craver's book. The purpose of the seminar will be to present (a) the key themes of the philosophy and (b) their implications for education.

On (a): Where relevant, address the philosophy's accounts of the nature of reality, how humans acquire knowledge, what human nature is, what is of value, and how society should be organized.

On (b): Some relevant questions are: What does that philosophy say is the primary goal of education? What educational methods should be used to reach that goal? If advocates of that philosophy took over our schools, what would change and what would stay the same? For example:

- What would the school's mission statement be?
- What would the curriculum consist of?
- Which subjects in the curriculum would have priority?
- How would those subjects be taught?
- What would the physical set-up of the class space be?
- How would students be evaluated?
- What special qualities should teachers embody?
- How would the social structure of the classroom change?

Time: 70 minutes overall (25-30 minutes of presentation, 30-40 minutes for questions and discussion).

(A suggestion from Dale Carnegie's *Public Speaking for Success* on the dangers of using notes in front of your audience:

- Notes destroy fifty percent of the interest in your talk.
- Notes prevent contact and intimacy with the audience.
- Notes create an air of artificiality.
- Notes make the speaker look less confident, less powerful.
- Make lots of notes in the preparation of your talk, but use them only in the event of a total emergency.
- If you must use notes, then make sure the audience does not see them. That is, "endeavor to hide your weakness from the audience.")

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A copy of the syllabus and schedule can be found online at www.StephenHicks.org.
For Honor Code and Disability issues, consult the College's website.

Schedule and Readings

[Please note: The dates for guest speakers Joshua Hall, Ph.D. and Roberto Salinas León, Ph.D. are tentative, so some of the dates below are subject to change.]

Week	Topics for first half of the evening	Topics for second half of the evening	Readings [O&C = Ozmon & Craver, SH = Stephen Hicks]
1 (Aug 19)	Introduction: What philosophy is and its relevance to education	Philosophical schools of thought: science and religion	Introduction [O&C]
2 (Aug 26)	Sign up for seminars Epistemology: Reason	Epistemology: Faith	“Semmelweis” [SH] “Romeo & Juliet” excerpt [SH] Quotations on Faith [SH]
3 (Sep 2)	Human Nature: Dualism and Reductionism	Human Nature: Naturalism	“Love and Sex” [SH]
4 (Sep 9)	Ethics: Egoism	Ethics: Altruism and Predation	Nathaniel Branden [SH] Mother Teresa [SH]
5 (Sep 16)	Group work on seminars	Group work on seminars	
6 (Sep 23)	Five philosophies of education: knowledge, method, morality, individuation, socialization	Lecture on Idealism	Quotations on Education [SH] Chapter 1 [O&C]
7 (Sep 30)	Seminar on Idealism: Plato & Kant	Lecture on Realism	Chapter 2 [O&C]
8 (Oct 7)	Seminar on Realism: Locke	Lecture on Pragmatism	Chapter 4 [O&C]
9 (Oct 14)	Fall break: No class		Chapter 6 [O&C]
10 (Oct 21)	Seminar on Pragmatism: Dewey	Lecture on Behaviorism	Chapter 6 [O&C]
11 (Oct 28)	Guest speaker: Jerry Kirkpatrick, Ph. D., Professor at California State University, Pomona, and author of <i>Montessori, Dewey, and Capitalism</i>		

- 12 Guest speaker: Roberto Salinas León, Ph. D., President and CEO of Mexico Business Forum, Mexico City
(Nov 4)
- 13 Seminar on Behaviorism: Skinner Lecture on Existentialism [ignore Phenomenology] Chapter 7 [O&C]
(Nov 11)
- 14 Seminar on Existentialism: Sartre Lecture on Postmodernism Chapter 10 [O&C]
(Nov 18)
- 15 Thanksgiving break: No class
(Nov 25)
- 16 Book review due Conclusions
(Dec 2)
- Seminar on Postmodernism: Giroux
- 17 Final exam
(Dec 9)

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