

# *Philosophical Foundations of Education*

Education 605, Spring Semester 2010

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## Books

- Howard Ozmon & Samuel Craver, *Philosophical Foundations of Education* (Prentice-Hall)
- James Tooley, *The Beautiful Tree*. Cato, 2009
- Stephen Hicks, editor, *Philosophical Foundations of Education* booklet

## Assignments and Grading

▪ Seminar .....	25%
▪ Participation .....	20
▪ Book Review of Tooley .....	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: May 5.

*Note:* Center for Ethics and Entrepreneurship prizes for the best essays in Education and Entrepreneurship: \$300 for First Place, \$100 each for two Honorable Mentions.

## 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](http://www.StephenHicks.org).  
For Honor Code and Disability issues, consult the College's website.

## Schedule and Readings

Week	Topics for first half of the evening	Topics for second half of the evening	Readings [O&C = Ozmon & Craver, SH = Stephen Hicks]
1 (Jan 20)	<b>Introduction:</b> What philosophy is and its relevance to education	Philosophical schools of thought: science and religion	Introduction [O&C]
2 (Jan 27)	Sign up for seminars Metaphysics: The Argument from Design	Metaphysics: The Argument from Evil	“The Watch and the Watchmaker” [SH]
3 (Feb 3)	Group work on seminars	Group work on seminars	
4 (Feb 10)	<b>Epistemology:</b> Reason	Epistemology: Faith	“Semmelweis” [SH] “Romeo & Juliet” excerpt [SH] Quotations on Faith [SH]
5 (Feb 17)	<b>Human Nature:</b> Dualism and Reductionism	Human Nature: Naturalism	“Love and Sex” [SH]
6 (Feb 24)	Ethics: <b>Egoism</b>	Ethics: <b>Altruism and Predation</b>	Nathaniel Branden [SH] Mother Teresa [SH]
7 (Mar 3)	<b>Six primary goals of education:</b> knowledge, method, skills, morality, individuation, socialization	Lecture on <b>Idealism</b>	Quotations on Education [SH] Chapter 1 [O&C]
8 (Mar 10)	Spring break: No class		
9 (Mar 17)	Seminar on Idealism: Plato & Kant [SH will do this one.]	Lecture on <b>Realism</b>	Chapter 2 [O&C]
10 (Mar 24)	Group work on seminars	Group work on seminars	
11 (Mar 31)	Seminar on Realism: Locke	Lecture on <b>Pragmatism</b>	Chapter 4 [O&C]
12 (Apr 7)	Seminar on Pragmatism: Dewey	Lecture on Behaviorism	Chapter 6 [O&C]

- 13 Seminar on Behaviorism: Lecture on Existentialism Chapter 7 [O&C]  
(Apr 14) Skinner [ignore Phenomenology]
- 14 Seminar on Existentialism:  
(Apr 21) Sartre
- 15 *Note:* Class meets 6-7 pm  
(Apr 28) only  
Book review due  
Conclusions
- 16 Final exam due  
(May 5)

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