

Philosophical Foundations of Education

Education 605, Summer Semester 2011

June 8 to July 20

Dr. Stephen Hicks

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Readings and Video

Howard Ozmon & Samuel Craver, *Philosophical Foundations of Education* (Prentice-Hall/Pearson; any recent edition is fine)

Stephen Hicks [Courses website](http://www.stephenhicks.org/courses/) (<http://www.stephenhicks.org/courses/>)

- *Philosophical Foundations of Education* [reading packet](http://tinyurl.com/4pn92dx) (<http://tinyurl.com/4pn92dx>)
- Philosophy of Education [video lectures](http://tinyurl.com/5vw944b) (<http://tinyurl.com/5vw944b>)

Assignments and Grading

Written questions for each session	25%
School design project	25
Participation	25
Take-home final exam	<u>25</u>
	100

On the Written Questions

In preparation for each session: After the reading and viewing the material beforehand, email to me (SHicks@Rockford.edu) a question. The question should be about what, in your judgment, is the most interesting and/or difficult and/or important issue the reading and video raise. I will reply via email and include your questions in our in-class discussions.

On the School Design Projects

Each will be a project on one of the philosophies of education discussed in Ozmon and Craver's book. The purpose 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?

Length: 50 minutes total (25 minutes formal presentation; 25 minutes discussion).

Your presentation will be video-recorded. I will not be present for the presentation. After recording, Chris Vaughan (CEE@Rockford.edu) will upload the video to a private setting at YouTube. I will watch the video and write up my comments and evaluation, which I will then send to you along with the URL so you can review your presentation.

On Participation

This score is based upon your efforts in all aspects of the course, but especially upon your contributions to the discussions during the seminars.

Schedule and Readings

<i>When / Where</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Video lectures</i>	<i>Readings</i>
1 June 8 RC	Introduction: Philosophy's relevance to education	Part 1: Introduction to the Course	Introduction [O&C]
2 June 13 Online	Metaphysics: Naturalism or Supernaturalism	Part 2: Metaphysics	William Paley, "The Watch and the Watchmaker" [SH]
3 June 15 RC	Epistemology: Reason or Faith	Part 3: Epistemology	"Simmelweis" & "Romeo & Juliet" excerpt [SH] "Quotations on Faith" [SH]
4 June 20 Online	Human Nature: Dualism or Reductive Materialism or Integrationism	Part 4: Human Nature	"Love and Sex" [SH]
5 June 22 RC	Ethics: Egoism or Predation or Altruism Transition: From issues to schools of thought	Part 5: Ethics Part 6: Transition	Nathaniel Branden [SH] Mother Teresa [SH]

6 June 27 RC	Seminar on Idealism	Part 7: Idealism	Chapter 1 [O&C]
7 June 29 RC	Seminar on Realism	Part 8: Realism	Chapter 2 [O&C]
8 July 6 RC	Seminar on Pragmatism	Part 9: Pragmatism	Chapter 4 [O&C]
9 July 11 RC	Seminar on Behaviorism	Part 10: Behaviorism	Chapter 6 [O&C]
10 July 13 RC	Seminar on Existentialism [ignore Phenomenology]	Part 11: Existentialism	Chapter 7 [O&C]
11 July 18 RC	Seminar on Postmodernism	Part 14: Postmodernism	Chapter 10 [O&C]
12 July 20 Online	Take-home exam questions due		

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.

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