

Philosophical Foundations of Education

Education 605, Fall Semester 2011

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Socratic Discussion Leader

Course Materials

- Howard Ozmon, *Philosophical Foundations of Education* (Prentice-Hall, 2011) <http://www.amazon.com/Philosophical-Foundations-Education-Howard-Ozmon/dp/0132540746>.
- Jerry Kirkpatrick, *Montessori, Dewey, and Capitalism* (TLJ Books, 2008) <http://www.amazon.com/Montessori-Dewey-Capitalism-Jerry-Kirkpatrick/dp/0978780337>.
- Stephen Hicks, editor, *Philosophical Foundations of Education* booklet (PDF available at <http://www.stephenhicks.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/phil-605-booklet-5-26-10.pdf>).
- Philosophy of Education course lectures on video (viewable at <http://www.stephenhicks.org/publications/philosophy-of-education/> or <http://tinyurl.com/5vw944b> or <http://www.youtube.com/user/CEEChannel#g/p>).

Assignments and Grading

▪ General participation	20%
▪ Seminar	20
▪ Socratic Discussion participation	20
▪ Book Review of Kirkpatrick	20
▪ Final Exam	<u>20</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 6.

Please email your essays to SHicks@Rockford.edu in Word format and name your Word document as follows: YOURLASTNAME-TITLE.doc.

Note: Center for Ethics and Entrepreneurship \$250 prize for the best essay on philosophical education.

On the Seminar

Each seminar will be a project on one of the philosophies of education discussed in Ozmon'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 learning space be?
- How would students be evaluated?
- What special qualities would teachers embody?
- How would the social structure of the classroom be managed?

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.")

Schedule and Readings

Week	Topics	Video	Text [HO] = Howard Ozmon, [SH] = Stephen Hicks
1 Aug 30	Introduction: Philosophy and its relevance to education Philosophical schools of thought: science and religion	Part 1: Introduction to the Course [optional]	Introduction [HO]
2 Sep 6	Metaphysics discussion Sign up for seminars	Part 2: Metaphysics	"The Watch & the Watchmaker" [SH]
3 Sep 13	Epistemology discussion	Part 3: Epistemology	"Semmelweis" [SH] "Romeo & Juliet" excerpt [SH] Quotations on Faith [SH]

4 Sep 20	Human Nature discussion	Part 4: Human Nature	“Love and Sex” [SH]
5 Sep 27	Ethics discussion	Part 5: Ethics	Nathaniel Branden [SH] Mother Teresa [SH]
6 Oct 4	From issues to isms Six primary goals of education Socratic Discussion overview	Part 6: Transition	Quotations on Education [SH]
7 Oct 11	Socratic discussion on Plato & Kant Seminar on Idealism	Part 7: Idealism	Chapter [HO]
8 Oct 18	Socratic discussion on Locke Seminar on Realism	Part 8: Realism	Chapter 2 [HO]
9 Oct 25	Socratic discussion on Dewey Seminar on Pragmatism	Part 9: Pragmatism	Chapter 4 [HO]
10 Nov 1	Socratic discussion on Skinner Seminar on Behaviorism	Part 10: Behaviorism	Chapter 6 [HO]
11 Nov 8	Class does not meet Independent work on book review, etc.		
12 Nov 15	Socratic discussion on Sartre Seminar on Existentialism	Part 11: Existentialism	Chapter 7 [HO]
13 Nov 22	Socratic discussion on Marx Seminar on Marxism	Part 13: Marxism	Chapter 8 [HO]
14 Nov 29	Socratic discussion on Giroux Seminar on Postmodernism	Part 14: Postmodernism	Chapter 10 [HO]
15 Dec 6	Final thoughts Book review due Exam questions given out	Part 15: Conclusion	
16 Dec 13	Final exam 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.