Wayne State University
Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Monte Pliawsky
Office Address: College of Education, Room 373
E-mail: ag1844@wayne.edu
Office Phone: 313 – 577 17 25
Office Hours: Monday 3:00pm – 4:15pm
              Tuesdays 3:00pm – 4:15pm
              Wednesday 3:00-4:15
              By Appointment
Program Area: Educational Administration
Course:      EDA 7600 – Structure of American Education
Term/Year:   Winter 2016*Please make note of the course dates—this course starts on
              Jan. 11th-March. 14th, 2016. The course is designed to run in 9 weeks**
Course Credit: Two credit hours
Course Location: Online, http://blackboard.wayne.edu

Course Description:
The purpose of this course is to examine major organizational, financial administrative, legal
and extra-legal considerations affecting public education in the United States. The course will
also focus on the role of the education in effecting change and school improvement, as part of
the effort to achieve equal educational opportunity especially on the basis of class, race, and
gender.

Course Objectives:
Learners will be able to identify and discuss:
1. The political, social, and economic purposes of schooling.
2. The historical goals and purposes of schooling.
3. The provisions of the United States Constitution that impact education.
4. The power of the state to regulate education.
5. The methods by which the state funds local school districts.
6. Issues related to school funding in Michigan in the present economic climate.
7. The constitutional and the legal principles that impact the rights and
   responsibilities of teachers and students.
8. From an historical perspective, the major legal cases that impact education.
9. The major organizational changes in contemporary education that affect
   local school districts, especially issues of school choice.
10. The historical patterns that brought about these major organizational
    changes.
11. The issues of racial segregation and approaches by local school districts to multicultural education.

12. The recent struggle for equal educational opportunity for women and issues of gender.


14. The impact of No Child Left Behind on Schooling.

Textbook

General Information
1. All written work must be original and demonstrate appropriate communication skills (e.g. correct spelling, punctuation, grammar, organizational skills, etc.)
2. All written work must meet scholarly standards as stated in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th Ed.).

Course Policies
- This course is being delivered via the Wayne State University Blackboard System (see link above). Documents outlining the course policies regarding Academic Integrity, Computer Usage, Disabilities, Incompletes and Computer Mediated Communication are posted on the course information page of that site. You are required to access, read and acknowledge understanding of these documents prior to beginning your course work. Details regarding this requirement are provided below under the heading “Pre-course Requirements.”
- In the event you should need to withdraw from the course and get a ‘W’, do this as soon as possible. This is only an 8 week course so all the deadlines are accelerated. To ensure you receive the expected status and apply for the correct tuition issues, act early and refer to the registration calendar (http://reg.wayne.edu/students/registration-calendar.php).
- Attachments (such as for the Pro/Con papers and journals) MUST be sent in a Microsoft Word compatible file version 2003 to ag1844@wayne.edu.

Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pro Position Paper</td>
<td>3/14/16</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Con Position Paper</td>
<td>3/14/16</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responses to other students</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Assignment Questions</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total points available</td>
<td></td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>376-400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>364-375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>352-363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>336-351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>324-335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>312-323</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assignment Notes
1. Late assignments require instructor authorization. Authorization must be requested prior to the posted due date and will only be given if the inability to meet the due date is directly related to an emergency situation.
2. The assignment information provided below is intended to provide an overview of the graded assignments. Detailed instructions on how to complete and submit each assignment will be provided in the UNIT AGENDAS and COURSE OUTLINE posted on the course web site.

Assignment Overview
Pre-course Requirements
Please make yourself familiar with the “Course Information.” The purpose of this information is to clearly communicate the course policies, course outline, syllabus and other resources.

Chapter Assignments
Each of the 8 units will have questions for discussion (listed in the course schedule in the syllabus). These assignments must be finished in the allotted time frame. If you go over the time frame you must notify the instructor immediately to discuss the problem and possible solutions. Complete the assignments by the due date!!! These questions are posted in the discussion board, and as such are intended to be a discussion. Please pay attention to the flow of the online conversation. It is a good idea to post your initial response early in the week to allow a few days for others to read and respond while reading and responding to your fellow classmates. It is NOT acceptable to only post on Sunday night. It is also NOT acceptable to miss a conversation. These discussions are vital parts of the course and should be treated as such. Even if you miss the deadlines, please post – your contributions can still add to the conversation (and may be eligible for partial credit). Treat the units as on-going conversations. The minimum response is 2 separate posts per unit. However, a ‘conversation’ may require more. Your responses should be ‘meaningful.’ This means that responses of ‘I agree’, ‘me too’, etc are not meaningful. You should raise additional issues, support the argument, offer differing points of view, and otherwise add to the conversation.

Course Requirements
There will be three overall course requirements that will be due in the timeframes listed below.
1. Pro position paper – including References/Bibliography page
2. Con position paper – including References/Bibliography page
   **Please pay attention to this assignment – it is due by the end of the semester, the information is in Bb, and you will not be getting weekly reminder of this**
3. Participation is based on two factors, primarily observed participation and a reflective journal. Observed participation will be calculated the instructor. Observable factors that may affect grades include, but are not limited to, reviewing documents, videos and web pages as assigned, and participation in discussions.

Pre-course Requirements
You **MUST** successfully complete each of the following tasks, in the order presented, before beginning your coursework. If for any reason you are unable to complete these tasks, e-mail your instructor immediately.

1. Access the course web site at [http://blackboard.wayne.edu](http://blackboard.wayne.edu)
2. Read the Announcement posted by the instructor
3. Use the navigation bar to access the Course Syllabus.
4. Download the syllabus and read it in its entirety
5. Use the navigation bar to access the Course Information page
6. Download the most recent version of the Distance Learning Program Guide and review the table of contents to familiarize yourself with the type of information included in this document.
7. Download the Course Study Guide and read it in its entirety
8. Open the document titled “Course Policies” and read it in its entirety
9. Open the document titled “Netiquette” and read it in its entirety
10. Access the Blackboard Tour and view the presentations. Note: if you have seen this presentation before you may skip this task.
11. Access the Facts and Fallacies presentation and view the video clips. Note: if you have seen these clips before you may skip this task.
12. Access the Readiness Survey, answer each question and review the feedback provided. Note: if you have completed this survey in the past you may skip this task.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism includes copying material (any more than 5 consecutive words) from outside texts or presenting outside information as if it were your own by not crediting authors through citations. It can be deliberate or unintended. If you're in doubt about the use of a source, cite it. Students caught plagiarizing information from other sources will receive a failing grade in the course. University policy states that students can be subject to multiple sanctions, from reprimand to expulsion as a consequence of academic dishonesty. To enforce this policy, all outside references must be submitted with assignments.

**Withdrawal Policy**
- Students who withdraw from a course after the end of the 2nd week of class will receive a grade of WP, WF, or WN.
  - WP will be awarded if the student is passing the course (based on work due to date) at the time the withdrawal is requested
  - WF will be awarded if the student is failing the course (based on work due to date) at the time the withdrawal is requested
  - WN will be awarded if no materials have been submitted, and so there is no basis for a grade
- Students must submit their withdrawal request on-line through Pipeline. The faculty member must approve the withdrawal request before it becomes final, and students should continue to attend class until they receive notification via email that the withdrawal has been approved. Withdrawals can be requested at any point from the
fifth week of class through the study day.

**Attention Students with Disabilities:**

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-577-3365 (TDD only). Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your special needs. Student Disability Services’ mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University.

Please be aware that a delay in getting SDS accommodation letters for the current semester may hinder the availability or facilitation of those accommodations in a timely manner. Therefore, it is in your best interest to get your accommodation letters as early in the semester as possible.

**Religious Observance Policy:**

Because of the extraordinary variety of religious affiliations represented in the University student body and staff, the Wayne State University calendar makes no provision for religious holidays. It is University policy, however, to respect the faith and religious obligations of the individual. Students who find that their classes or examinations involve conflicts with their religious observances are expected to notify their instructors well in advance so that alternative arrangements as suitable as possible may be worked out.