

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves as an introduction to the Philosophy of Education in Western philosophical thought. Through course readings, discussions, and assignments, we will explore some fundamental questions in philosophy of education, including: What is education? What is the purpose of education, both for the student and for the community? What role (if any) does education play in reproducing and/or challenging social norms? Do all children have a right to education and, if so, who has the authority to ensure that all children are educated? Are all children entitled to the same education and, if so, who has the authority to determine the curriculum? What sorts of knowledge or skills should be taught, and how? Should education be conceived of as the transmission of knowledge, or as the cultivation of inquiry and critical thinking skills?

## COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course requires that students approach readings and discussions with an open mind and a desire to become more self-reflexive about the beliefs that inform our own educational philosophies. Many of our beliefs about education will be affirmed or challenged by our readings and, potentially, by other students in the class. This course will require students to examine their existing beliefs about education, analyze those beliefs, defend them when necessary, and adopt a more philosophically sound foundation for them through class discussions and written assignments.

## COURSE SCHEDULE:

- Week 1    Historical Accounts of Education:**  
Nel Noddings, *Philosophy of Education* (selection)  
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (selection)
- Week 2    Plato, *The Republic* (selections)**
- Week 3    John Locke, *Some Thoughts Concerning Education* (selection)  
John Stuart Mill, *On Representative Government* (selection)**
- Week 4    Who Should Have Authority Over Education?**  
Amy Gutmann, *Democratic Education* (selection)  
Michael W. Apple & James A. Beane, “The Case for Democratic

Schools”

- Week 5**    **How Does Education Shape Social Character?**  
George S. Counts, *Dare the School Build a New Social Order?* (selection)  
Maxine Greene, *The Dialectic of Freedom* (selection)
- Week 6**    **How Does Education Shape Social Character?**  
John Taylor Gatto, “What is Education?”
- Week 7**    Joel Westheimer & Joseph Kahne, “What Kind of Citizen?”
- Week 8**    **On Teaching & Learning**  
Rousseau, *Emile* (selection)
- Week 9**    Jane Roland Martin, *Reclaiming a Conversation: The Ideal of the Educated Woman* (selection)
- Week 10**    Friedrich Froebel, *The Education of Man* (selection)  
John Dewey, “The Child and the Curriculum”
- Week 11**    John Dewey, *The School and Society* (selection)  
David Kennedy, “Thinking for Oneself and with Others”
- Week 12**    Carole Gilligan, *In A Different Voice* (selection)  
Nel Noddings, *The Challenge to Care in Schools: An Alternative Approach to Education* (selection)
- Week 13**    **Community of Inquiry**  
Paulo Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (selection)  
Movie Clip: Kiran Bir Sethi – Ted Talk
- Week 14**    David Kennedy, “Lipman, Dewey, and the Community of Philosophical Inquiry”