# Course Description

This online seminar course is designed to orient the learner with the essential knowledge base and accompanying skills needed to understand the significant current issues impacting education in the 21st century. Learners will become familiar with the political, social, academic, and economic factors presently influencing school culture and climate and that have a major impact on staff, students, and their families. Among the contemporary issues explored are those associated with the standards movement and state assessments; school choice and options for families; the financing of public education; the imperative of addressing special needs of students; the impact of immigration, diversity, and varied forms of student expression; and emerging technologies and social media. The course will focus on the implications for administrators in understanding many of the numerous factors in society and education today that affect student achievement and school climate.

# University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

* **ULO1:**Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World
* **ULO2:**Intellectual and Practical Skills
* **ULO3:**Personal and Social Responsibility
* **ULO4:**Integrative and Applied Learning­
* **ULO5:**Immersed in the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

# Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

* **PLO1:** Apply theoretical and practical knowledge in support of your professional practice. (ULO 2, 4)
* **PLO2:** Utilize educational research and develop your own research interests and agenda. (ULO 2, 3)
* **PLO3:** Examine and critique the economic, political, cultural, historical, and social influences that impact education in the United States. (ULO 1, 3, 5)
* **PLO4:** Apply policies, statutes, and rules established by state and local agencies relating to judicious application of disciplinary methods and behavioral procedures. (ULO 3, 4)
* **PLO5:** Identify and use instructional methods and curricula that are appropriate and effective in meeting the needs of individual learners. (ULO 1, 2, 4, 5)

# Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

* **CLO1:** Describe current issues in education as related to the school, district, and community.
* **CLO2:** Examine historical influences and the impact of efforts to improve school climate, culture, and student performance and achievement.
* **CLO3:** Describe the administrator’s role as a school leader to bring current issues in education to the school staff, community, and student body in appropriate forums.
* **CLO4:** Identify key issues and concerns about educational reforms and public education.
* **CLO5:** Examine programs of instruction, such as those that support the goals of multicultural education, special education, talented & gifted education, and English language learners.

# Student Expectations

Students are expected to do the following:

* Ask probing and insightful questions related to course content.
* Make meaningful and relevant connections and application to their own learning process.
* Be productive and contributing members of class discussions.

# Required Course Materials

Koonce, G. L.(2019). [*Taking sides: Clashing views on educational issues*](https://www.amazon.com/Taking-Sides-Clashing-Educational-Issues/dp/1260494241/ref=sr_1_4?keywords=Taking+sides%3A+Clashing+views+on+educational+issues&qid=1560964599&s=gateway&sr=8-4)(19th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

ISBN-13: 978-1260494242

# Suggested Point Values

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assessment** | **Point Value** | **Due** |
| **Week 1** |  |  |
| Discussion: Getting to Know You and Your Ideas of Current Issues in Education | 30 |  |
| Paper: Historical Perspective | 50 |  |
| **Week 2** |  |  |
| Discussion: PA Core Standards | 30 |  |
| Discussion: What’s Wrong With Public Education? | 30 |  |
| Discussion: Why the U.S. School System is Broken | 30 |  |
| Paper: The Opt-Out Movement Short | 50 |  |
| **Week 3** |  |  |
| Discussion: Does Inclusion Work? | 30 |  |
| Discussion: Research Project Topic | 30 |  |
| Paper: Rtii/ MTSS Programming Paper | 50 |  |
| Paper: Failing School Assignment | 50 |  |
| **Week 4** |  |  |
| Discussion: Safe School Environments | 30 |  |
| Discussion: Building Partnerships with Diverse Families | 30 |  |
| Journal: Reflective Question | 30 |  |
| Paper: Strategies for Culturally Responsive Instruction Short Paper | 50 |  |
| **Week 5** |  |  |
| Discussion: Mandatory Universal Preschool | 30 |  |
| Paper: Use of Technology and Student Learning Presentation | 50 |  |
| Paper: Complete the Funding and Small Class Size Evaluation Template | 50 |  |
| **Week 6** |  |  |
| Discussion: Social Media in the Classroom Debate | 30 |  |
| Discussion: Cell Phone Use in the Classroom Debate | 30 |  |
| Discussion: Case Study: Bullying Field Experience Reflection | 75 |  |
| **Week 7** |  |  |
| Discussion: Arming School Teachers | 30 |  |
| Discussion: Zero Tolerance | 30 |  |
| Journal: Reflective Question | 30 |  |
| Research Paper | 125 |  |
| **Total Points** | **1000** |  |

**Grading Scale**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Range** |
| A | 93–100 |
| A- | 90–92 |
| B+ | 87–89 |
| B | 83–86 |
| B- | 82–80 |
| C+ | 77–79 |
| C | 73–76 |
| C- | 70–72 |
| D+ | 67–69 |
| D | 63–66 |
| D- | 60–62 |
| F | 59 |

# Course Schedule

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Start** | **End** |
| One | <insert start date> | <insert end date> |
| Two |  |  |
| Three |  |  |
| Four |  |  |
| Five |  |  |
| Six |  |  |
| Seven |  |  |

# Weekly Learning Modules

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week One: Ways of Thinking About Educational Issues** | | | |
| ***Learning Objectives*** | | ***Alignment*** | |
| * 1. Describe the significance of historical influences on contemporary issues in education. | | CLO1, CLO2 | |
| * 1. Describe the philosophical considerations for influencing issues in education and ongoing influence of prominent learning theories on today’s classroom. | | CLO1, CLO2 | |
| ***Resources, Activities, and Preparation***  *Utilize these resources and complete these activities in preparation for your graded assignments.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Readings and Videos**  **Readings**   * Introduction (pp. 10–15) of *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Educational Issues* * “Should Public Schooling be Redefined” (pp. 17–29) of *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Educational Issues* * [Current Issues and Actions from NEA](http://www.nea.org/home/IssuesAndAction.html) * [Educational Issues and Trends Education World](https://www.educationworld.com/preservice/learning/issues.shtml) * [Education week](https://www.edweek.org/ew/index.html)   Feel free to post questions and comments about these resources in the General Questions & Discussion forum. | | 1.1-1.2 | Discuss Readings =  **1 hour** |
| **Tutorials**  During this course, you will be asked to use and participate in various technologies to complete activities and assignments.  **Review** the tutorials available on Blackboard, as needed.  **Click** the **Student Resources** button from the menu on the left. | | N/A | N/A |
| **Weekly Participation and Discussion**  The purpose of the weekly discussions is to provide you with a way to synthesize the concepts presented in this course. Each week, you will respond to the discussion questions with a substantive post of 200 to 250 words that addresses all the prompts for the question by 11:59 p.m. EST of the listed due date. By the conclusion of each week, Sunday at 11:59 p.m. EST, you will make at least 1 substantive comment of 100 to 150 words to 3 of your classmates’ posts for each assigned discussion question. Your comments must further the discussion by following the RISE model for meaningful feedback. It is recommended that you check in periodically throughout the week to ensure that you are meeting the participation requirement.  **Review** the RISE Model for Peer Feedback, located on Blackboard. | |  |  |
| **Research Paper Topic Selection Forum**    This course includes a research paper, due in Week Seven. In your research paper, you will analyze a current topic that has engendered discussion or controversy in the field of education. Note the following requirements:   * The paper should be 1,500 to 2,000 words in length. * You must include an annotated bibliography of at least 6 scholarly references. * You must address the following:   + Explain how your research sheds new perspectives on your selected topic.   + Utilizing the research, incorporate your own perspective on the topic.   + Extrapolate how the topic will be viewed by the educational community in the next 5 to 10 years.   **Select** a topic related to a current issue in the field of education that has engendered discussion or controversy.  **Post** a brief description of your selected topic to your instructor for review and approval in the Research Paper forum before beginning any research. You may continue to use this forum for questions regarding this assignment. This is your place to discuss potential topics, share your ideas, and seek and provide support with your classmates. | |  |  |
| ***Supplemental Resources and Activities***  *Explore these optional resources to deepen your understanding.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Adobe Connect Live Discussion**  **Review** [Adobe Connect Resources](https://sites.gmercyu.edu/student-resources/adobe-connect-resources/).  **Participate** in the scheduled live session with the course instructor. This session will provide an overview of the course and discuss the major assignments in the course.  **Prepare** to ask questions concerning the content of the week and the course.  *Note:* A recorded lecture will be made available to those who are unable to attend the live session. | |  | Live Discussion: lecture and discussion = **1 hour** |
| ***Graded Assignments***  *Complete these graded assessments by the end of the week unless specified otherwise.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Discussion: Getting to Know You and Your Ideas of Current Issues in Education**    **Respond** to the following by Thursday 11:59 p.m. (EST). Provide specific examples to support your answers:     * Develop a video or slide presentation that includes the following:    + A short biography introducing yourself: Share your experience in education, including number of years, various roles and schools/districts, current role, and anything else you feel is pertinent.   + Your reason for being in education   + Your philosophy, mission, and passion regarding education   + Identify 5 critical current issues in education. Explain why you have chosen them, and explain why you believe that teaching these issues is critical. * Read the introduction posted by your professor.   *Note:* Videos should not exceed 5 minutes; slide presentations should not exceed 12 slides.  **Post** constructive criticism, clarification, additional questions, or your own relevant thoughts to 3 of your classmates' posts by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Sunday. | | 1.1-1.2 | Discussion = **1 hour** |
| **Paper: Historical Perspective**  **Refer** to the Standardized Curriculum For All template.  **Write** a 3- to 5-page paper in which you respond to the following questions:   * Explain a historical perspective of reflecting on educational issues. * Explain at least 2 philosophical considerations in reflecting on educational issues. * Why do public schools need a standardized curriculum? Provide 3 detailed reasons. * Explain how quality of life depends on the quality of schooling. * Do you feel there should be a standardized curriculum in public schools? Why or why not?   **Post** your presentation to Blackboard by Sunday. | | 1.1-1.2 | Paper = **1 hr.** |
| **Total** |  |  | **4** |

# Faculty Notes

**Course Setup**

**General Questions and Discussion Forum:** This course includes a discussion forum for general questions, comments, and concerns. This forum is intended for any course-related commentary not found within a specific weekly discussion. This forum is not graded. Make sure to monitor this forum for student posts. You are encouraged to make an announcement advertising this forum and monitor and post regularly to build engagement.

**Discussion: Getting to Know You:** Post your own introduction in the Getting to Know You discussion form by the beginning of Week One. It is recommended that you post a video introduction to create a connection with students and to demonstrate how to post videos in forums. You are free to upload your own video introduction or link to it.

**The Introduction:** Your introduction should be posted prior to the course start and should be an exemplar to the expectation for the students’ presentation due in Week One.

**Adobe Connect:** Consider posting an announcement asking students to submit any questions or topics they'd like addressed ahead of time. The instructor can then utilize those questions that come up in the first part of the week to tailor the live Adobe Connect class session that would be scheduled toward the later part of the week. That 1-hour synchronous session will allow students the opportunity to go over any questions they had with the homework and clarify any misconceptions they have about the course content. All Adobe Connect sessions should be recorded and a link to the recording be posted to the course page so any student who misses the session can review it later in the week.

*Note:* It is the instructor’s choice as to what day they will schedule the Adobe Connect Live Session, but it is recommended that they schedule this session for Wednesday of the week so students have plenty of time to review their homework prior to the deadline on Sunday.

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| Week Two: Reform and Concerns of Public Education | |  |  |
| ***Learning Objectives*** | | ***Alignment*** | |
| * 1. Explain how standards-based reform and the shift to the core standards have changed instruction. | | CLO1, CLO2 | |
| * 1. Describe how performance standards are used to raise achievement levels for all learners. | | CLO1, CLO2 | |
| * 1. Identify the issues related to standardized assessment measures. | | CLO1, CLO2, CLO3 | |
| * 1. Explain issues related to why schools are considered broken. | | CLO1, CLO2 | |
| ***Resources, Activities, and Preparation***  *Utilize these resources and complete these activities in preparation for your graded assignments.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Readings**   * “Do American Schools Need a Common Curriculum?” (pp. 71–94) of *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Educational Issues* * “Pennsylvania Core Standards Stages of Implementation” located on Blackboard * “Issue: Common Core, Chapter 4, Keystones” located on Blackboard * “Guideline Strategies for PA Core Standards Implementation” located on Blackboard * “Q & A: Common Questions About the Common Core” located on Blackboard    + [Part 1: “What Are Some of the Pros and Cons of the Common Core Standards?](http://teaching.about.com/od/assess/f/What-Are-Some-Pros-And-Cons-Of-The-Common-Core-Standards.htm)”   + [Part 2: “Impact of the Common Core Standards”](http://teaching.about.com/od/assess/a/Common-Core-Standards.htm)   + [Part 3: “Overview of the Common Core Assessments”](http://teaching.about.com/od/assess/a/Common-Core-Assessment.htm)   + [Part 4: “Pros and Cons of Standardized Testing”](http://teaching.about.com/od/assess/a/Standardized-Testing.htm)   **Videos**   * “[Diane Ravitch - What’s Wrong with Public Ed 101 ‘Disobey’ Opt Out of Tests](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEv2PMS47hs)” (8:54) * [Here's Why the U.S. School System Is Broken](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOZocYcttO4) (3:59)   Feel free to post questions and comments about these resources in the General Questions & Discussion forum. | | 2.1, 2.2, 2.4 | Discuss Readings =  **1 hour** |
| ***Graded Assignments***  *Complete these graded assessments by the end of the week unless specified otherwise.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Discussion: PA Core Standards**  **Respond** to the following questions by Thursday 11:59 p.m. (EST). Provide specific examples to support your answers:   * Do you believe that PA Core Standards or Common Core will help improve student performance and raise achievement? * Do you believe the PA Core Standards or Common Core will help to make American students more globally competitive? * Consider the debate on standardized testing (for instance, PSSA, keystones, and other state assessments). Do you feel that there is merit in administering standardized state assessments? Why or why not?   **Post** constructive criticism, clarification, additional questions, or your own relevant thoughts to 3 of your classmates' posts by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Sunday. | | 2.1, 2.2 | Discussionpost and replies **=**  **1 hour** |
| **Discussion: What’s Wrong With Public Education?**  **Refer** to the video: “[Diane Ravitch - What’s Wrong with Public Ed 101 ‘Disobey’ Opt Out of Tests](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEv2PMS47hs).”  **Respond** to the following by Thursday 11:59 p.m. (EST). Provide specific examples to support your answers:   * After viewing Dr. Ravitch’s video, formulate a response to the concerns she voiced in her video. Take the perspective of a school official in your response. Utilize information from the readings on pp. 71–94 to strengthen your response.   **Post** constructive criticism, clarification, additional questions, or your own relevant thoughts to 3 of your classmates' posts by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Sunday. | | 2.3 | Discussionpost and replies **=**  **1 hour** |
| **Discussion: Why the U.S. School System is Broken**  **Refer** to the video “[Here's Why The U.S. School System Is Broken](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOZocYcttO4).”  **Respond** to the following by Thursday 11:59 p.m. (EST). Provide specific examples to support your answers:   * Reflect on the video, and list 3 salient reasons why our school system is broken that you concur with that is evident in your school or district. Explain how this reason looks or manifests in your school or district.   **Post** constructive criticism, clarification, additional questions, or your own relevant thoughts to 3 of your classmates' posts by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Sunday. | | 2.4 | Discussionpost and replies **=**  **1 hour** |
| **The Opt-Out Movement Short Paper**  Currently in the state of Pennsylvania, [State Code Title 22, Chapter 4 Section 4.4 (d) (5)](http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/022/chapter4/s4.4.html) allows parents to opt their children out of state assessments (and associated test-prep activities) for religious and philosophical beliefs. Parents only have to state that they have a religious or philosophical objection; they are not required to prove it.  **Research** for information about the growing opt-out movement in standardized testing.  **Write** a 500- to 750-word paper that describes how the growing body of information on opting out has fueled a significant backlash against testing, as well as how parents across the country have become part of a widespread movement to put an end to state tests. Consider the following:   * What are some of the main reasons that parents are objecting to having their students take state assessments? Do you agree with their position? Why or why not? * How might the ideas presented in “[Diane Ravitch - What’s Wrong with Public Ed 101 ‘Disobey’ Opt Out of Tests](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEv2PMS47hs)” inform this debate?   **Submit** this assignment by 11:59PM (EST) on Sunday. | | 2.1-4 | Paper = **1 hr.** |
| **Total** |  |  | **5 hours** |

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| Week Three: Meeting the Needs of Struggling Learners and Failing Schools | |  |  |
| ***Learning Objectives*** | | ***Alignment*** | |
| * 1. Differentiate between response to intervention and instruction (Rtii) and multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) and the impact of supporting students at risk including English language learners. | | CLO1-4 | |
| * 1. Evaluate what approach of support is effective in supporting English language learners. | | CLO1-4 | |
| * 1. Analyze the effectiveness of including of students with disabilities in the general education setting. | | CLO1-4 | |
| ***Resources, Activities, and Preparation***  *Utilize these resources and complete these activities in preparation for your graded assignments.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Readings and Videos**  **Readings**   * Pages 107–121 of *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Educational Issues* * “What is RTII?” located on Blackboard * [Studies Flag the Potential Downside to Inclusion](https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2016/09/07/studies-flag-potential-downside-to-inclusion.html) * [What is the Difference Between RTI and MTSS?](https://www.readinghorizons.com/blog/what-is-the-difference-between-rti-and-mtss) * [Supporting English Learners’ Success: A Practical Guide for School Administrators](http://www.eslportalpa.info/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2018/09/ESL-Admin-Guide-ADA.pdf) * Response to Intervention-Guidelines for Parents and Practicioners, located on Blackboard   **Review** the [U.S. government Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) website](https://www.ed.gov/category/keyword/office-special-education-programs-osep), which explains the Individual with Disabilities Act and the provisions of IDEA.  Feel free to post questions and comments about these resources in the General Questions & Discussion forum. | |  | Discuss Readings =  **1 hour** |
| ***Graded Assignments***  *Complete these graded assessments by the end of the week unless specified otherwise.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Discussion: Does Inclusion Work?**  **Respond** to the following by Thursday 11:59 p.m. (EST). Provide specific examples to support your answers:   * Explain how inclusion of students with disabilities is or is not working in the general education setting in your school or district. Provide some suggestions on how this experience for the students can be improved for both the general education and special education student.   **Post** constructive criticism, clarification, additional questions, or your own relevant thoughts to 3 of your classmates' posts by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Sunday. | | 3.1-2 | Discussionpost and replies **=**  **1 hour** |
| **Discussion: Research Project Topic**  **Respond** to the following question by Thursday 11:59 p.m. (EST). Provide specific examples to support your answers:   * In the Research Paper forum, post a 200-word description of your selected topic on a current issue you plan to research for your project to allow your instructor to review and approve it before beginning any research. * Use this forum to discuss potential topics, share your ideas, and seek and provide support with your classmates. * Note that youwill be submitting your Research Project in Week 7.   **Post** constructive criticism, clarification, additional questions, or your own relevant thoughts to 3 of your classmates' posts by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Sunday. | | 3.1-3.3 | Discussionpost and replies **=**  **1 hour** |
| **Paper: Rtii/MTSS Programming Paper**  **Review** the readings for the week and **reflect** on your school or district.  **Write** a 400- to 600-word paper in which you respond to the following:   * Indicate which approach your educational institution uses to support students who are at risk academically and behaviorally: Rtii or MTSS or a combination of the two? * Does your institution’s approach also support students who are English language learners? If not, explain why not and what is needed?   **Submit** this assignment by 11:59PM (EST) on Sunday. | | 3.1 | Paper **=**  **1 hour** |
| **Paper: Failing School Assignment**  **Refer** to the “Failing School Assignment” template.  **Complete** the following sections in the template:   * Section I: Identify 2 characteristics for both failing and turn-around schools for student, teacher, administrator, and school. * Section II: Describe 3 strategies needed to turn around a nonperforming school. * Section III: Reflect on our school or district setting. List 3 areas that could move your school or district forward to be better performing.   **Submit** this assignment by 11:59PM (EST) on Sunday. | | 3.1-3.3 | Paper **=**  **1 hour** |
| **Total** |  |  | **5 hours** |

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| **Week Four: Multicultural Education: How Changing Demographics Are Impacting Our Schools** | | |  |
| ***Learning Objectives*** | | ***Alignment*** | |
| * 1. Identify how educators are working with families to address an increasingly diverse population of learners in today’s classrooms. | | CLO4-5 | |
| * 1. Describe strategies for culturally responsive teaching. | | CLO4-5 | |
| * 1. Explain the legal concerns associated with religious, gender, and other forms of individuals’ expression in schools. | | CLO4-5 | |
| ***Resources, Activities, and Preparation***  *Utilize these resources and complete these activities in preparation for your graded assignments.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Readings**   * “Are Truly Democratic Classrooms Possible?” (pp. 35–47) of *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Educational Issues* * Small Class Size and Funding Assignment template, located on Blackboard. * “[Educational Demographics What Teachers Should Know](http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/dec00/vol58/num04/Educational-Demographics@-What-Teachers-Should-Know.aspx)” * [U.S. School Enrollment Hits Majority-Minority Milestone](https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2014/08/20/01demographics.h34.html) * “[Demographic Shifts Require Changes in School Communication](http://www.eschoolnews.com/2010/12/15/demographic-shifts-require-changes-in-school-communication/)” * “Family Engagement, Diverse Families, and Early Childhood Education Programs: An Integrated Review of the Literature”, located on Blackboard * National Association of School Psychologists: “[Position Statement](https://learn-us-east-1-prod-fleet01-xythos.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/5b3a900e1925c/547201?response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%2A%3DUTF-8%27%27LGBTQ_Youth.pdf&response-content-type=application%2Fpdf&X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Date=20190628T193227Z&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Expires=21600&X-Amz-Credential=AKIAIBGJ7RCS23L3LEJQ%2F20190628%2Fus-east-1%2Fs3%2Faws4_request&X-Amz-Signature=deb7d201c0c411ba34c1a218346caa7e39840beaca74c9d812286716e7eb1cbf),” located on Blackboard   **Videos**   * “[Culturally Responsive Instruction and Teaching Basics](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqYL6KsEYj8)” (7:59) * “[Introduction to Culturally Relevant Pedagogy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGTVjJuRaZ8)” (4:39)   Feel free to post questions and comments about these resources in the General Questions & Discussion forum. | | 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 | Discuss Readings =  **1 hour** |
| ***Graded Assignments***  *Complete these graded assessments by the end of the week unless specified otherwise.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Discussion: Building Partnerships with Diverse Families**  **Respond** to the following by Thursday 11:59 p.m. (EST). Provide specific examples to support your answers:   * Describe at least three strategies teachers or administrators can use to build partnerships with diverse families to help them become part of the school’s culture. * Do you believe it is more of a responsibility for the school to help immigrant or English language learner students and their parents become part of the school’s culture, or is the responsibility of the parents and children to work to become part of the school’s culture? Explain your response.   **Post** constructive criticism, clarification, additional questions, or your own relevant thoughts to 3 of your classmates' posts by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Sunday. | | 4.1 | Discussionpost and replies **=**  **1 hour** |
| **Discussion: Safe School Environments**  **Respond** to the following questions by Thursday 11:59 p.m. (EST). Provide specific examples to support your answers:   * Many schools, at primarily the middle- and high-school levels (although this is occurring at the elementary level, as well), are seeing an increase in the number of students now identifying themselves as the opposite gender from their gender at birth, or as gender neutral. Reviewthe article on the National Association of School Psychologists website, entitled “[Safe School Environments for Transgender Students](http://www.nasponline.org/publications/periodicals/communique/issues/volume-44-issue-1/safe-school-environments-for-transgender-students).” You may need to create an account to view this article. Accounts can be created for free.   + What are some of the issues schools and teachers face when students inform them that they wish to identify as a different gender? How can schools and staff members realistically respond? * The arrest of Ahmed Mohamed, a 14-year-old Muslim student in Texas, made the national news. Read the story of his arrest and the reason behind it here: “[Muslim teen Ahmed Mohamed creates clock, shows teachers, gets arrested](http://www.cnn.com/2015/09/16/us/texas-student-ahmed-muslim-clock-bomb/index.html).”   + What factors came into play causing the school to have Ahmed arrested?   + Do you believe he would have been arrested if he were not a Muslim?   + Do you believe any student in that school might have been arrested for bringing that clock to school?   + Do you believe the school acted appropriately when it made the decision to have him arrested?   **Post** constructive criticism, clarification, additional questions, or your own relevant thoughts to 3 of your classmates' posts by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Sunday. | | 4.2-3 | Discussionpost and replies **=**  **1 hour** |
| **Discussion: Week Four Reflective Question**  **Read** [U.S. School Enrollment Hits Majority-Minority Milestone](https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2014/08/20/01demographics.h34.html),and **review** pp. 35–47 of your text.  **Write** a 150- to 250-word response to the following questionsby Thursday 11:59 p.m. (EST). Provide specific examples to support your answers:   * “History suggests that public schools rarely, if ever, get out ahead of society.” How does this quote from the reading on pp. 35–47 of your text relate to the changing demographics of American schools? * Compare the demographic changes in your educational institution to those cited in the article. What communication strategies are you using to address the changing face of your student population?   **Post** constructive criticism, clarification, additional questions, or your own relevant thoughts to 3 of your classmates' posts by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Sunday. | | 4.2-3 | Discussionpost and replies **=**  **1 hour** |
| **Paper: Strategies for Culturally Responsive Instruction Short Paper**  **Watch** the following videos:   * “[Culturally Responsive Instruction and Teaching Basics](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqYL6KsEYj8)” (7:59) * “[Introduction to Culturally Relevant Pedagogy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGTVjJuRaZ8)” (4:39)   **Write** a 500- to 750-word paper that describes how teachers at any level can implement strategies for increasing culturally responsive instruction. Keep in mind some of the key points in the videos, such as making connections, using and activating students’ prior experiences and knowledge, having culturally diverse student libraries, having a print-rich environment, and providing extensive opportunities for verbal communication, movement, and sharing of ideas.  **Provide** examples to illustrate how these strategies can help students adapt. Ensure that your assignment addresses strategies for students of all grade levels.  **Submit** this assignment by 11:59PM (EST) on Sunday. | | 4.1-3 | Discussionpost and replies **=**  **1 hour** |
| **Total** |  |  | **5 hours** |

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| Week Five: Universal Preschool, Technology, and School Funding | |  |  |
| ***Learning Objectives*** | | ***Alignment*** | |
| * 1. Evaluate the need for universal preschool. | | CLO3-5 | |
| * 1. Analyze the effectiveness of universal preschool on closing the achievement gap. | | CLO3-5 | |
| * 1. Describe current issues of technology on instruction and achievement. | | CLO3-5 | |
| ***Resources, Activities, and Preparation***  *Utilize these resources and complete these activities in preparation for your graded assignments.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Readings and Videos**  **Readings**  **Read** the following from *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Educational Issues*:   * Universal Preschool” (pp. 138–150) * “Is the Use of Technology Changing How Teachers Teach (pp. 272–286) * “Does Class Size Affect Student Achievement?” (pp. 243–257) * “Does Funding Improve Student Achievement?” (pp. 228–235)   **Read** the following:   * “[Pennsylvania’s Historic School Funding Problem](http://www.paschoolfunding.org/the-problem/pennsylvania%e2%80%99s-historic-school-funding-problem/)” * PSEA’s platform article, “Pennsylvania’s Public School Funding: the Foundation of the Commonwealth” located on Blackboard * [Safe Schools for Transgender and Gender Diverse Students](https://learn-us-east-1-prod-fleet01-xythos.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/5b3a900e1925c/1328429?response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%2A%3DUTF-8%27%27Safe%2520Schools%2520for%2520Transgender%2520and%2520Gender%2520Diverse%2520Students.pdf&response-content-type=application%2Fpdf&X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Date=20190628T183618Z&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Expires=21600&X-Amz-Credential=AKIAIBGJ7RCS23L3LEJQ%2F20190628%2Fus-east-1%2Fs3%2Faws4_request&X-Amz-Signature=6cc5891d17db77d02ff3b439d1fbf7dd2bb4ccd03e6504755cee3e044b2eeb90) * [U.S. School Enrollment Hits Majority-Minority Milestone](https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2014/08/20/01demographics.h34.html)   Feel free to post questions and comments about these resources in the General Questions & Discussion forum. | | 5.1 – 5.3 | Discuss Readings =  **1 hour** |
| ***Graded Assignments***  *Complete these graded assessments by the end of the week unless specified otherwise.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Discussion: Mandatory Universal Preschool**    **Respond** to the following questions by Thursday 11:59 p.m. (EST). Provide specific examples to support your answers:     * Should there be mandatory universal preschool? Why or why not? * What is your position on preschool is a strategy to close the achievement gap?   **Post** constructive criticism, clarification, additional questions, or your own relevant thoughts to 3 of your classmates' posts by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Sunday. | | 5.1-5.2 | Discussion = **1 hour** |
| **Paper: Use of Technology and Student Learning Presentation**  **Develop** a presentation (with less than 12 slides) using PowerPoint, Prezi, or another format, regarding the use of technology and student learning that includes the following:   * How has technology made a positive effect on student learning? * How has technology changed the way teachers teach? * List reasons why some teachers are resistant to maximizing the use of technology in their classroom. * Describe what is needed to better prepare teachers to incorporate technology into their instruction. * List at least 5 strategies for using technology to foster student achievement.   **Remember** to cite any research you may incorporate.  **Submit** this assignment by 11:59PM (EST) on Sunday. | | 5.3 | Paper **=**  **1 hour** |
| **Paper: Complete the Funding and Small Class Size Evaluation Template:**   * What are the cons of smaller class size? * What are the effects of small class size in early grades and all grades? * What are the advantages of small class size on student achievement? * Which students benefit the most from a smaller class size: general education, students with disabilities, gifted students, or English language learners? Explain. * What does the cost–benefit analysis of school funding reveal? Why? * Explain how policy affects class size and student achievement. * Explain how funding and funding differences affect class size and student achievement.   **Submit** this assignment by 11:59PM (EST) on Sunday. | | 5.1-3 | Paper **=**  **1 hour** |
| **Total** |  |  | **4** |

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| Week Six: Social Media, Bullying, and Cell Phones | |  |  |
| ***Learning Objectives*** | | ***Alignment*** | |
| * 1. Distinguish between the pros and cons of social media in the classroom. | | CLO1 | |
| * 1. Evaluate the use of cell phones in the classroom. | | CLO1 | |
| * 1. Identify how to handle bullying situations. | | CLO1 | |
| ***Resources, Activities, and Preparation***  *Utilize these resources and complete these activities in preparation for your graded assignments.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Readings and Videos**  **Readings**   * “Can Zero Tolerance Violate Student Rights?” (pp 161–173) of *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Educational Issues* * [Social Media in Education Pros & Cons](http://edtechreview.in/e-learning/268-socia-media-in-education-pros-cons) * [Cyberbullying: What Teachers and Schools Can Do.](https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/cyberbullying-what-teachers-and-schools-can-do/) * [School Bullying Rates Increase by 35% from 2016 to 2019](https://cyberbullying.org/school-bullying-rates-increase-by-35-from-2016-to-2019) * [Bullying, Cyberbullying, and Suicide Among US Youth: Our Updated Research Findings](https://cyberbullying.org/bullying-cyberbullying-suicide-among-us-youth) * “Bullying in Schools”   **Video**   * [Should cellphones be allowed in school?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INxsAxeqA88)   Feel free to post questions and comments about these resources in the General Questions & Discussion forum. | | 6.1-6.3 | Discuss Readings =  **1 hour** |
| ***Graded Assignments***  *Complete these graded assessments by the end of the week unless specified otherwise.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Discussion: Social Media in the Classroom Debate**    **Respond** to the following questions by Thursday 11:59 p.m. (EST). Provide specific examples to support your answers:     * What is your opinion of social media in the classroom? Why? List at least two pros and two cons. * How have you used social media in your classroom?   **Post** constructive criticism, clarification, additional questions, or your own relevant thoughts to 3 of your classmates' posts by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Sunday. | | 6.1 | Discussion = **1 hour** |
| **Discussion: Cell Phone Use in the Classroom Debate**  **Respond** to the following questions by Thursday 11:59 p.m. (EST). Provide specific examples to support your answers:     * What is your opinion on permitting student to use their phones during class time? Explain your position. * What is the policy in your school or district on student cell phone usage? * Provide 3 strategies on how cell phone use can benefit instruction.   **Post** constructive criticism, clarification, additional questions, or your own relevant thoughts to 3 of your classmates' posts by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Sunday. | | 6.2 | Discussion = **1 hour** |
| **Discussion: Case Study: Bullying Field Experience Reflection**  **Respond** to the following questions by Thursday 11:59 p.m. (EST). Provide specific examples to support your answers:  **Read** the following case study:  You are the Administrator of an elementary school, grades K–6. It is Monday morning, and you were just informed by one of the parents that Aaron, one of your 6th-grade boys attempted suicide over the weekend by taking some of his mother’s medication. He is in critical condition, but it appears he will make it.  You met with Aaron’s parents a month ago regarding cyberbullying he had experienced on his phone. His parents naturally assumed the perpetrator was someone at school, and they felt he was also being bullied at school. Until the meeting with the parents, you were never informed of any bullying targeted at Aaron.  Following the meeting with the parents, you began your investigation regarding the parent’s claim. You interviewed the lunchroom aides, his teacher, and his bus driver, and they all reported they had not seen any teasing or bullying directed toward Aaron. Aaron’s teacher reported that Aaron never reported any bullying to her and that she had not observed any direct bullying in class. She also indicated that Aaron was a very quiet young man, often a loner, and never really initiated any interaction with his peers. She would also have to remind him to pay attention due to his constant daydreaming and playing with his school supplies. You also made an observation of Aaron at lunch and at recess, and your observations confirmed the teacher’s sentiment of Aaron being a loner and not interacting with any of his peers.  After your investigation, you met again with the parents in-person and reported your findings. You offered that Aaron could meet with the counselor to work with him several times per week. You also told the parents that you will continue to monitor Aaron’s claims and that you would like to meet with them in 3 weeks.  You research the district’s anti-bullying policies to see if you had missed any steps, and your review confirmed you had followed all the appropriate steps.  **Write** a 500- to 700-word response to the following questions. Cite specifics of your school or district’s policy or procedures in your response, specifically those related to bullying, cyberbullying, and confidentiality.   * Now that Aaron has attempted suicide, is there anything you can do additionally to support him in the school setting? * How would you prepare for Aaron’s return to school? * What supports would you put in place in the classroom, during lunch and recess, and on the bus? * What is your school or district’s policy on cyberbullying? * If you identify that the young person who has been cyber bullying Aaron is a student in your school, what is the school or district’s policy in disciplining this student? * How will you apprise his teacher and other staff who work with Aaron of this situation? What about confidentiality?   **Read** the response of 1 peer, and **provide** meaningful feedback to their response.  **Post** constructive criticism, clarification, additional questions, or your own relevant thoughts to at least one classmates' posts by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Sunday. | | 6.3, ULO5 | Discussion = **3 hour** |
| **Total** |  |  | **6** |

# Faculty Notes

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| Week Seven: Arming Staff and Zero Tolerance | |  |  |
| ***Learning Objectives*** | | ***Alignment*** | |
| * 1. Understanding the debate on arming teachers and principals in schools. | | CLO4-5 | |
| * 1. Describe the effect zero-tolerance policies have on student rights. | | CLO4-5 | |
| * 1. Evaluate the effect off-campus online speech has on student discipline. | | CLO4-5 | |
| ***Resources, Activities, and Preparation***  *Utilize these resources and complete these activities in preparation for your graded assignments.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Readings**  **Read** the following from *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Educational Issues*:   * “Is There Support for Arming Teachers in Schools?” (pp. 125–137) * “Can Zero Tolerance Violate Student Rights?” (pp. 161–170) * “Do Public Schools Have Grounds to Punish Students for Their Off Campus Online Speech?” (pp. 48–68) | | 7.1-7.3 | Discuss Readings =  **1 hour** |
| ***Graded Assignments***  *Complete these graded assessments by the end of the week unless specified otherwise.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Discussion: Arming School Teachers**    **Respond** to the following questions by Thursday 11:59 p.m. (EST). Provide specific examples to support your answers:     * What is your opinion of arming teachers and principals to protect students? Why? * What is your opinion of arming trained security personnel in the schools? Why?     **Post** constructive criticism, clarification, additional questions, or your own relevant thoughts to 3 of your classmates' posts by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Sunday. | | 7.1 | Discussion = **1 hour** |
| **Discussion: Zero Tolerance**  **Respond** to the following question by Thursday 11:59 p.m. (EST). Provide specific examples to support your answers:     * What effects have zero-tolerance policies had on the educational environment in your educational institution?     **Post** constructive criticism, clarification, additional questions, or your own relevant thoughts to 3 of your classmates' posts by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Sunday. | | 7.2, ULO5 | Discussion = **1 hour** |
| **Journal: Week Seven Reflective Question**  **Submit** a 150- to 250-word response to the following question in the Week Seven Reflective Question discussion forum by Sunday:   * In your opinion, how has the proliferation of off-campus online speech affected teaching and learning in your educational institution? Cite at least 1 concept or idea form this week’s readings in your response.   **Submit** this assignment by 11:59PM (EST) on Sunday. | | 7.1-7.3 | Journal = **1 hour** |
| **Research Paper**  Your research paper is due this week.  **Select** and **analyze** a topic related to a current issue in the field of education that has engendered discussion or controversy. Note the following requirements:   * The paper should be 1,500 to 2,000 words in length. * You must include an annotated bibliography of a least 6 scholarly references. * You must address the following:   + Explain how your research sheds new perspectives on your selected topic.   + Utilizing the research, incorporate your own perspective on the topic.   + Extrapolate how the educational community will view the topic in the next 5 to 10 years.   **Submit** this assignment by 11:59PM (EST) on Sunday. | | CLO1-CLO5 | Paper = **3 hour** |
| **Total** |  |  | **4** |

# Breakdown of Academic Instructional Equivalencies

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|  | **AIE Hours** |
| **Week 1** |  |
| Required | 4 |
| Supplemental |  |
| **Week 2** |  |
| Required | 5 |
| Supplemental |  |
| **Week 3** |  |
| Required | 6 |
| Supplemental |  |
| **Week 4** |  |
| Required | 6 |
| Supplemental |  |
| **Week 5** |  |
| Required | 4 |
| Supplemental |  |
| **Week 6** |  |
| Required | 6 |
| Supplemental |  |
| **Week 7** |  |
| Required | 6 |
| Supplemental |  |
|  |  |
| **Total Required Hours** | 36 |
| **Total Supplemental Hours** | 1 |
| **Total Hours** | 37 |