



Welcome to EDFN 710, History of Education. It is my intent that this course should help you gain an appreciation for the history of educational theory and practice. Teaching takes place in an extraordinarily complex context that includes intellectual traditions that extend backward and forward in time well beyond the present moment. We need also to recognize that teaching is shaped by social, moral, and political dimensions as well as time and place. Educational thought, past and present and for better or worse, is that upon which current educational practices are founded. It is my goal to provide an online learning environment that facilitates discussion and inquiry that promotes the understanding of thought, events, and persons that have affected education in the United States.

Good teaching and learning requires awareness of the complex context in which education takes place and of the many questions and problems posed by that complexity. I believe that the qualities of understanding, engagement, and judgment are the crucial components of learning and that they cannot be demonstrated through the mere reproduction of other people's ideas, beliefs, or actions. These qualities are demonstrated through thoughtful reading, analysis, discussion and writing. This course is designed to foster that understanding, engagement, and judgment necessary for reflective and responsible practice. Through the course students will have many opportunities to reflect on issues, evaluate perspectives, and to formulate and articulate their own reasoned judgments about educational issues.

The textbook for this course is *History of Education in America*, 9th Edition. Pulliam, J.D. & Van Patten, J.J. Pearson/Merrill, Prentice Hall. It is organized into three major sections:

1. First, historical, philosophical, psychological, and social foundations of education.
2. Second, a chronological examination of American education from colonial beginnings to the modern era.
3. Third, laws, court cases, issues, political changes, and conflicts in education, with an eye toward globalization and other future trends.

As a student in this course your responsibility is to interact with me and the other students in the course, to keep up with the reading, the assignments, and to take the time to critically review and synthesize the course content in order to professionally complete the course requirements. This course will include individual and paired/small group assignments. Online discussions, email (within D2L) and chat can be used to communicate and learn together. Most of the required assignments for this class can be completed asynchronously. The paired/small group assignments will require you to work with your groups (if enrollment dictates group work) at times that are compatible with each of you. As a new Dean, I have not taught an on-line course before. I look forward to the opportunity and will ask in advance for your patience as I learn the D2L system. Also, due to my travel schedule, I will be assisted by Dr. Wade Pogany as an instructor for this course. Dr. Pogany brings a wealth of experience to this opportunity and will provide additional insight to our discussions.

If you have any questions contact me at rick.melmer@usd.edu until September 1st. After that date please contact me through Course Email within D2L.

Rick Melmer