

DRAFT syllabus
PUBP 768: Reform of Educational Reform
Fall 2003

U.S. K-12 education, arguably unsatisfactory, is arguably the victim of three forces: the politics and policies of equity, a changing nation, and successive trials of various classroom practices, however plausible, looking for a theory. The result we're experiencing may be the best we should expect. In the event, the current reform strategy of accountability can be misguided.

The course, open to students in master and PhD programs, will be conducted as a research seminar. For those interested, a course with the same number (768) was offered in Fall 2002, with another title, "Improving Schooling: Culture, Technology and Policy." Contents of that course can be found at <http://mason.gmu.edu/~amelmed> . The change in course name for Fall 2003 reflects a change in emphasis and some changes in content.

Course requirements and grading for this Fall's course are the same as that for Fall 2002, and can be found at this URL.

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Course Administration

VERY IMPORTANT

Plagiarism: All work must be your own. Inappropriate use of the work of others without attribution is plagiarism and a George Mason University Honor Code violation punishable by expulsion from the University. All students should familiarize themselves with this honor code provision (<http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook/aD.html>).

To guard against plagiarism and to treat students equitably, written work may be checked against existing published materials or digital data bases available through various plagiarism detection services. Accordingly materials submitted to all courses must be available in electronic format.

Kingsley E. Haynes, Dean SPP/GMU

GRADING BASIS

Classroom participation	50 %
Presentation of paper	15%
Final paper	35%

Sessions

[Syllabus and course administration](#)

[Session 1 Wed 27 Aug](#)

[Session 2 Wed 3 Sep](#)

What are schools for, anyway? [Session summary](#)

[Session 3 Wed 10 Sep](#)

They're not doing so well? It's the money, stupid! [Session summary](#)

[Session 4 Wed 17 Sep](#)

No, it's the teachers. [Session summary](#)

[Session 5 Wed 24 Sep](#)

What about the curriculums? [Session summary](#)

[Session 6 Wed 1 Oct](#)

Retrace steps and review [Session summary](#)

[Session 7 Wed 8 Oct](#)

What are the options? [Session summary](#)

[Session 8 Wed 15 Oct](#)

Talk by outside speaker; term paper topics [Session summary](#)

[Session 9 Wed 22 Oct](#)

No class; AM out of the country

[Session 10 Wed 29 Oct](#)

Discussion of term paper outlines

[Session 11 Wed 5 Nov](#)

Tinkering Toward Utopia [Session summary](#)

[Session 12 Wed 12 Nov](#)

Revisiting Reform [Session summary](#)

Session 13 Wed 19 Nov

Four term paper presentations

Session 14 Wed 26 Nov

No class; Thanksgiving Recess

Session 15 Wed 3 Dec

Four term paper presentations; due date for term paper