

Department of Educational Policy Studies and Department of History  
History of American Education  
EPS/History 412

Spring 2012

3 credits

Lecture, Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:55

Education L196

&

Discussion Sections,

Wednesday 1:20 [Disc. 304] Ed L155

1:20 [Disc. 306] Ed L150

Thursday 8:50 [Disc. 301] Agr Engr 101

11:00 [Disc. 303] Ed L150

12:05 [Disc. 305] Ed 151

Friday 9:55 [Disc. 302] Ed L150

William J. Reese, Professor of Educational Policy  
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Education 223

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Office Hours: Mondays, 11:00-12:00 (at 5102 Mosse Humanities Building); and  
Wednesdays, 11-12:00 (at Education 223) & By Appointment

Teaching Assistants, Andrew Knudsen and Nicholas Strohl

Education 218 Phone: 262-0124

Office Hours: To Be Announced in Discussion Sections

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*Course Description:*

Welcome to EPS/History 412, The History of American Education. This class concentrates on the history of mass education, focusing especially on the history of public education below the college and university levels. We will examine educational developments and trends from the 17th century colonies to the recent past, from the Puritans to contemporary efforts to improve the nation's public schools.

Throughout the course, we'll explore the tension between educational ideals and

practices, and how various groups of citizens tried to shape and reform education in the past. We'll also study the influence of religion, economics, gender, race, and ethnicity upon education and schooling in different periods of American history.

There are several required paperbacks for the course, available at the University Bookstore. Copies may also be available at local used book stores or via the Internet. Copies are also on reserve at College Library, Helen C. White.

1. Thomas Hine, The Rise and Fall of the American Teenager
2. Margaret Nash, Women's Education in the United States
3. Carl F. Kaestle, Pillars of the Republic
4. David Adams, Education for Extinction
5. Arthur Zilversmit, Changing Schools: Progressive Education Theory and Practice
6. Jerald Podair, The Strike That Changed New York

*Student Responsibilities:*

Class attendance is expected. Students are also expected to read and reflect upon the assigned readings, which together with material from lectures will help shape the quality of classroom discussions. 20% of the final course grade will be based upon the *quality* of your contributions to your discussion section. Missing class will seriously weaken your participation grade. This grade will also be determined by your achievement on one page, double-spaced papers that will be due approximately every other week. The assignments will be distributed one week before the papers are due. These one-page papers must be submitted in *hard copy only*, and late papers will not be accepted.

There will be two in-class examinations: a Mid-Term and a Final. These examinations will each be worth 40% of your final evaluation; they will be half essay question, half short answer and identification items. The Mid-term will cover lectures, reading assignments, and class discussions during the first half of the semester; the Final exam will not be comprehensive but will cover the material for the second half. More information on these exams will be provided later.

The Mid-term will be on two days--March 5 & 7--(Monday and Wednesday). The Final is on May 16, 12:25-2:25. Check your schedule when you enroll in the course to ensure that you do not have a conflict.

*Graduate students will complete a 5-7 page paper, due on April 30—please ask for a copy of the instructions for this paper at the beginning of the course.*

To recap:   20%   Discussion section & class participation including papers  
              40%   Mid-term Exam  
              40%   Final Exam

*Grading Scale:*

A (93-100); AB (88-92); B (83-87); BC (78-82); C (70-77); D (60-69); F, below 60

If you are ill or otherwise have a legitimate reason to miss a scheduled examination, it is your responsibility to contact me or one of the teaching assistants before the test. Missing an exam without prior permission will lead to an automatic F. If you are experiencing any difficulty with the course, or with your schooling generally, please come to see me or the other instructors. We would be very happy to help.

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*Computers and Electronic Devices*

Please turn off all electronic devices including cell phones and store them away before the beginning of class. Computers may *only* be used to take notes. Computers may *not* be used for email, internet browsing, or other purposes during class, so turn off the wireless application. Abuses may lead to the banning of computers in class, so your cooperation is appreciated.

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*Teacher Education Standards*

This course is approved for Department of Public Instruction and Minority Group Relations Teacher License Requirements: DPI Standards 2, 5, 13, and 14, and Minority Group Relations 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. In order to meet these standards, teacher-education students must earn a final grade of “BC” or better. If you do not receive such a grade, you must take a different course to meet these standards.

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*WEEK-BY-WEEK SUMMARY*

Week 1       Jan. 23 & Jan. 25

Introduction to the Course  
The Protestant Reformation & Puritan New England in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century

Reading: Hine, Rise and Fall, introduction & chapters 1-3.

Week 2      Jan. 30 & Feb. 1

The Protestant Reformation & Puritan New England in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century  
Education and Social Change in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

Reading: Hine, Rise and Fall, chapters 4-5.

Week 3      Feb. 6 & 8      Education in the Early Republic  
The Origins of Public Schools

Reading: Kaestle, Pillars, preface and chapter 1; and Nash, Women's Education, introduction and chapter 1.

Week 4      Feb. 13 & 15      The Origins of Public Schools

Reading: Nash, Women's Education, chapters 2-4; Kaestle, Pillars, chapters 2-5; and J.M. Opal, "Exciting Emulation: Academies and the Transformation of the Rural North, 1780s-1820s," *Journal of American History* 91 (Sept. 2004): 445-470. (This article is accessible electronically from HISTORY COOPERATIVE via MADCAT).

Week 5      Feb. 20 & 22      The Origins of Public Schools

Reading: Kaestle, Pillars, entire; and Nash, Women's Education, entire.

Week 6      Feb. 27 & 29      The Origins of Public Schools  
Review

Reading: Hine, Rise and Fall, chapter 6.

Week 7      March 5 & 7      **Mid-Term**

Week 8      March 12 & 14      Separate and Unequal: Race and Reconstruction  
Romanticism and the Origins of Progressive Education

Reading: Adams, Education for Extinction, preface, prologue, chapters 1-6.

Week 9      March 19 & 21      Progressivism

Reading: Adams, Education for Extinction, complete.

Week 10     March 26 & 28      Progressivism

Reading: Reading: Hine, Rise and Fall, chapters 7-9; and Joseph L. Tropea, "Bureaucratic Order and Special Children: Urban Schools, 1890s-1940s," *History of Education Quarterly* 27 (Spring 1987): 29-53. (This article is accessible electronically from JSTOR via MADCAT).

Week 11     Spring Recess      March 31-April 8

Week 12     April 9 & 11 Progressivism  
The Scopes Trial and Rise of Fundamentalism

Reading: Hine, Rise and Fall, chapter 10; and Jeffrey P. Moran, "Reading Race into the Scopes Trial: African American Elites, Science, and Fundamentalism," Journal of American History 90 (December 2003): 891-911. (This article is accessible electronically from HISTORY COOPERATIVE via MADCAT).

Week 13     April 16 & 18      American Education and the Great Depression  
School and Society in the 1950s

Reading: Hine, Rise and Fall, chapters 11-12; and Zilversmit, Changing Schools, preface and chapters 1-4.

Week 14     April 23 & 25      School and Society in the 1950s

Reading: Zilversmit, Changing Schools, chapters 5-9; and Podair, Strike that Changed New York, introduction and chapter 1.

Week 15      April 30 & May 2      The Great Society and the 1960s  
From the Great Society to *A Nation at Risk*

Reading: Hine, Rise and Fall, chapter 13; Podair, Strike that Changed New York, entire.

*Graduate students: paper due April 30*

Week 16      May 7 & 9                      Reagan to “No Child Left Behind”  
Review

Reading: Hine, Rise and Fall, chapters 14-15.

**\*\*\*Final Exam: 12:25 Wednesday May 16\*\*\***

Room to be determined