EDUC 616: Foundations of Teaching and Learning  
Fall 2018  
Professor Ryan Baker

SYLLABUS

**Instructor Info**
Email: rybaker@upenn.edu
Office: GSE 439
Office hours: Tuesday noon-1pm, or by appointment
Course time: Tuesday, 2pm-350pm

**Required Texts**


Other course readings will be available in Canvas.

**Course Goals**
In this class, we explore key theoretical perspectives on teaching and learning. What is knowledge and knowing? What is learning? What is teaching? What are good teaching and learning? How do contexts influence teaching, knowing, and learning?

In the course, students will learn foundational theoretical perspectives on these questions, while being encouraged to develop answers for themselves, and develop an underpinning for the work that they will carry forward in their professional careers, whether in research or in practice.

**Course Pre-requisites:** None.

**Assignments**
A theoretical paper will be due on November 30. This theoretical paper will require the student to select a contemporary problem in education or learning (big or small), and then discuss how a core thinker in Education would suggest that it be solved. Students will be required to turn in a 1-page paper prospectus for the theoretical paper on October 19, which will be graded as well. Extensions for the paper and prospectus deadlines will only be available in case of instructor error or extreme circumstances (assignments in other classes, research studies, and so on do not count as extreme circumstances; serious injury, illness, or death in the family do count as
outside of these circumstances, late hand-ins will not be accepted (e.g. zero credit will be given).

All assignments should be sent to the instructor via email to ryanbaker.handin@gmail.com. The assignment title and email title should be 616-YOURLASTNAME-ASSIGNMENTNAME. Assignments can be submitted in Microsoft Word or PDF format.

Please do not submit handins via Canvas.

Midterm and final exams will be given. Both exams are open-book; open-resource; open-web. However, collaborating on the exam with other students or anyone else at all is NOT ALLOWED. The exams will be made available on the course webpage 48 hours before the due date.

Class participation involves both attendance and active (and constructive) participation in classroom discussions. Simply attending class and sitting silently will not result in a high grade for class participation.

Reading is an essential part of this class. Each week except the first and last weeks, there will be a reading activity. You must complete the reading activity before class (or you will receive no credit for that week). You may choose between completing a factual multiple-choice reading activity, or responding to an open-ended reading prompt. Both activities will be available in the ASSISTments system; information about how to create an ASSISTments account will be made available in class. Your lowest two grades on any reading activity will be dropped from calculation.

Please note that assignment criteria and dates may be changed and/or further detailed during the term.

Grading

- Theoretical Paper Prospectus 5%
- Theoretical Paper 15%
- Midterm Exam 20%
- Final Exam 20%
- Class Participation 20%
- Reading Activities 20%
PLAGIARISM and CHEATING

Don’t do it. If you are unsure whether an action involves plagiarism or cheating, please talk to me first.

Using CANVAS

1. Go to http://penngse.instructure.com
2. Click on Log in and enter your PennNet ID and password.
3. Click on EDUC616-001-2017 MASTERS FNDS TCH & LRN

Periodically, I will email the class via Canvas. To be sure that you receive these messages, please make sure that your contact information is up-to-date.

COURSE SCHEDULE

August 28 Introductions and Overview


September 4 Behaviorism


September 11 Cognitive Perspective/Classic Constructivism


September 18 Constructionism


September 25 Vygotsky


October 2 Dewey


October 9 Bloom


October 16 Education, Social Change, and Responsiveness


October 19 Theoretical Paper Prospectus Due noon

October 23 Community of Learners and Practice


Midterm handed out in class

October 26 Midterm due 1159pm

October 30 Identity and Diversity


November 6 Motivation


**November 13** Robust Learning and Engagement


**November 20 – No class – University Holiday**

**November 27** Architectures and Frameworks


**November 30** Theoretical paper due 1159pm

**December 4** Committee of N
No readings

December 7  1159pm Final Exam due

Final Exam handed out in class