

University of SC Aiken  
School of Education  
Dynamics of American Education

AEDF 321, 3 Credit Hours  
Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:50-12:05  
Instructor: Dr. Melissa Riley

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Phone: 642-1112  
Office Hours: By appointment

#### Required Text

Sadker & Sadker, Teachers, Schools, and Society, Boston, McGraw Hill

#### Course Description

This course offers an extensive treatment of the social, political, economic, and philosophical influences instrumental in shaping public education. This includes an examination of the financial, organizational and legal aspects of education. Current trends, contemporary research, and future issues are also included. Within this context, the course will examine the conceptual framework of the dynamic educator as planner, instructor, manager, communicator, and professional. An important addition to the course is the blending of INTASC Standards (Interstate New Teachers Assessment and Support Consortium) with course content.

#### Methods of Instruction

Methods of instruction will depend on the learning styles of students. Class sessions may include but not be limited to classroom lectures, speaker presentations, reflective experiences, peer teaching, cooperative learning, group discussion and media with an emphasis on a student's area of study. The instructor will model a variety of teaching strategies as an integral and ongoing component of the course.

#### Course Objectives

The student, upon completion of this course, will be able to:

1. Utilize working knowledge of becoming a teacher
2. Conceptualize a multicultural perspective on education
3. Identify historical information pertaining to education
4. Integrate newly acquired knowledge of the history of education with that of our present day educational system
5. Identify philosophical concepts
6. Reveal a personal philosophy relating to education
7. Recognize the organizational structure and the financial and legal aspects of American education
8. Utilize basic understanding of learning styles/multiple intelligence and learning theories
9. Identify effective teaching methodologies
10. Demonstrate knowledge of Bloom's taxonomy

#### Student Requirements

Students are responsible for reading and integrating text material into their own body of knowledge. When in class be prepared to participate in class activities and to remain “engaged” in class discussions. Attendance at ALL class sessions is expected and necessary to the interactive nature of each class. Absence from class decreases the possibility of receiving credit for participation. Assignments will NOT be accepted after due date.

### Grading

The following criteria will be utilized for grade evaluation:

- Attendance and class participation
- Written assignments to include: observation (reflection) journal, bibliography summation, interaction component, philosophy statement, homework assignments, hot topic presentation
- Content tests and final examination

Grades	A=100-93	B+=92-90	B=89-83	C+=82-80
	C=79-73	D+=72-70	D=69-63	F=below 63

### Disability Statement

If you have a physical, psychological, and/or learning disability which might affect your performance in this class, please contact the Office of Disability Services, 126A B&E, (803) 641-3609, as soon as possible. The Disability Services Office will determine appropriate accommodations based on medical documentation.