

EDF 5607 introduction: What to expect

Fall 2006

Purpose of the course

- Education politics viewed through a social-science lens
 - Links current debates to historical dynamics and schools as organizations
 - Legacies of demography and linguistic and cultural diversity
 - Reveal assumptions of current debates
- Fulfills social foundations requirement for initial certification programs

Structure of the course

- Five units
 - Schools and democracy
 - Schools and the economy
 - The politics of education research
 - The context of diversity
 - School reform
- Each unit includes two types of material
 - Theoretical readings and lecture
 - Hot topics

Assignments

- Readings
 - Start with theoretical in each unit, move to hot topics
 - Short-answer quizzes on Blackboard each week
- Online discussions
 - Discussion board
 - Weekly chats
 - Synthesizing blogs/e-mails/voicemail messages
- Case-study paper

Discussion expectations

- Role rotation: initiation, response, synthesis
- Small groups: in each unit, primarily for the theoretical materials
- Differences: expect them, respect them, learn from them
- *Social presence* in the course
- Accountability through synthesis: additional issues
- Critical Incident Questionnaire



Case study

- Take one hot topic and expand
 - Readings from across course
 - Focus on perspectives
- Expected length: 12-15 pages
- Rubric tied to Florida [Accomplished Practice](#) categories 4, 5, 6, and 11 and to the research part of college's [CARE framework](#)

Blackboard tools used

- Discussion board
- Lightweight chat
- Journal
- SafeAssignment
- Quizzes
- View Grades
- *Blackboard downtime in August*

Technical needs

- Browser that meets the USF Blackboard minimum requirements (see Browser Wizard at [MyUSF](#))
- Flash player (the one you're using to view this presentation)
- A media player for .wmv files (Microsoft Media Player, which is also freely available [for MAC](#))
- Adobe Reader ([free download](#))
- Technical support at USF Help Line (974-1222 locally, 1-866-974-1222 statewide)

Concerns?

- [E-mail](#)
- Virtual or in-person office hours
- Critical Incident Questionnaire

