

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
ADVANCED STUDIES IN TEACHING AND LEARNING PROGRAM**

**EDUC 615.001
EDUCATIONAL CHANGE**
2 credits, Spring 2014 (online)
CRN 14695

Meeting Days/Times
Thursday, January 23 – March 27, 7:20-10 p.m.
Location: Thompson 1020

PROFESSOR

Nancy Holincheck, Ph.D., NBCT

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Office Hours: Before or after class,

By appointment online via Skype or Collaborate

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COURSE DATES/TIMES

Our course runs for 10 weeks starting January 23rd. Classes meet on Thursday nights from 7:20-10:00 pm.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Explores influences on educational change at classroom, school, community, state, and national levels. Investigates implications of factors and influences that affect educational change. Analyzes influences and factors, and involves students in reflecting on their own experiences.

Prerequisite: EDUC 612, 613, Admission to Graduate School and ASTL Program

LEARNER OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the factors, perspectives, and entities that influence educational change and reform (*ASTL Learning Outcomes 5 and 7*);
2. Examine their local context related to access and equity, as well as their own role as a change agent within that context (*ASTL Learning Outcomes 4, 6, and 7*);
3. Surface and examine their personal experiences with educational change and reform (*ASTL Learning Outcomes 4 and 7*);
4. Plan for improvement/change in their local context (*ASTL Learning Outcomes 7 and 8*).

RELATIONSHIP TO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

EDUC 615 is one of the five courses in the 12-credit, yearlong ASTL CORE. EDUC 615 is also aligned with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' (NBPTS) five

core propositions, which provide the guiding principles for *what teachers should know and be able to do*. Specifically, EDUC is aligned with the following NBPTS propositions:

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards 4 – Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards 5 – Teachers are members of learning communities.

EDUC 606 is aligned with the additional three principles that guide the ASTL Core:

- Principle 6: Teachers account for the needs of culturally, linguistically, and cognitively diverse learners;
- Principle 7: Teachers are change agents, teacher leaders, and partners with colleagues; and
- Principle 8: Teachers use technology to facilitate student learning and their own professional development.

REQUIRED TEXT

Lieberman, A., & Miller, L. (2004). *Teacher leadership*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

Hargreaves, A., & Fullan, M. (2012). *Professional capital: Transforming teaching in every school*. New York, NY: Teachers College Press.

Additional selected readings to be available via Blackboard or through Mason Libraries (<http://library.gmu.edu/>)

Recommended Texts

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Nature of Course Delivery

Mini-lectures, videos, and interactive discussions of readings and ongoing critical reflective practice will support learning experiences throughout the course and will complement your experiences and expose you to the major cultural perspectives, as explored through the cultural inquiry process. Discussions may take place in class or via Blackboard. Your instructor will be available for in-person, phone, or virtual consultations to complement the support from your Critical Friends Groups

- To access our course Blackboard site, go to the MyMason portal login page at <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>. Your GMU email user name is also your MyMason Portal ID and your GMU email password is also your MyMason Portal password. After logging in, click on the COURSES tab at the top of the page to see your list of courses, then select EDUC 606.

General Requirements

- A. Class attendance is both important and **required**. If, due to an emergency, you will not be in class, you must *contact your instructor prior to class time*. Learners with more than two absences may drop a letter grade or lose course credit.

- B. All assignments are due no later than **11:59 PM EDT** of the date indicated in each week’s assignments published in the **COURSE SCHEDULE AND TOPICS** section of this Syllabus. Due dates are also posted on our Bb course site.
- a. **Grades for assignments date-stamped in Blackboard after the due date will be reduced by 10%, unless prior approval from instructor has been granted. No late submissions will be accepted after the course end date.**
 - b. Assignments earning less than a passing grade may be rewritten and resubmitted so that the assignment is satisfactorily completed. In fact, because learning is the goal, I may *require* you to redo an assignment that is far below expectations.
- C. Please adhere to the assignment submission instructions listed in this syllabus. Only assignments submitted as indicated will be graded; incorrect submissions will result in a grade of zero for those assignments.
- a. All assignments submitted should have the filename format LASTNAME-ASSIGNMENT TITLE. Please do not upload written assignments in PDF format. Other editable formats are acceptable (i.e., .doc, .docx, .rtf, .ppt, .pptx, .xlsx, .xlxs). Supporting documents for assignments can be in PDF format.
- D. *All written work* should be carefully edited for standard grammar and punctuation, as well as clarity of thought. All submitted work should be prepared through word processing and reflect APA style (6th edition), as well as double-spaced, with 1” margins, and 12-point font (Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial).

Course Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

<i>Course Outcome Alignment</i>	Assignment	<i>Points</i>
1, 3	Weekly Work/Class Participation	40
1	Critical Friend Group tasks	10
2, 4	Equity Audit, Policy Brief, and Action Plan (PBA)	45
	Reflection Point 4	5
	Total	100

Weekly Work

This course operates with the assumption that knowledge is socially constructed and the most meaningful learning opportunities are those where you have the opportunity to offer and explore diverse perspectives with peers. To do this, you are expected to regularly contribute to classroom discussions and online discussion forums, as well as to genuinely ‘listen’ to peers as they do the same. Agreement is not mandatory; consideration and respect are. This means that you must be “present” throughout all discussions and activities. It is expected that you connect, question, and extend the discussion in class and in blackboard discussion posts by citing readings, weekly content, and your personal experiences. In addition to being present in each class, weekly work also includes quality participation in class discussions and/or discussion forums. See the Weekly Work rubric in this syllabus for grading criteria-page 10.

Critical Friend Group tasks

There will be instances when you will be tasked with being a critical friend to a peer(s). This will entail aiding in such tasks as data analysis, brainstorming problems/solutions, and offering feedback. See the CFG rubric in this syllabus for grading criteria- page 14.

Equity Audit, Policy Brief, and Action Plan (EDUC 615 Performance Based Assessment)

Teacher leaders affect change within their sphere of influence. To do this, teacher leaders need to actively inform themselves about their local context and the opportunities and outcomes related to students within that context. To become an informed teacher leader, you will complete an audit of your school. This audit will focus on indicators of equity for various groups of students in your school. After collecting and analyzing the audit data, you will pick one piece of the data that you find the most compelling. This data will be the foundation for a policy brief that synthesizes policy and literature related to the data selected. The policy brief will then be used to create a plan of action for changing something within your school (within your sphere of influence) that will lead to improvement in a related area. See the assignment details and rubric in this syllabus for further information- pages 11-13.

PROMPT FOR ASTL PORTFOLIO REFLECTION POINT 4

(to be completed at the end of the course- ASTL program requirement)

Teacher as Change Agent

In this reflection point, you will focus on how coursework, related readings, and experiences for EDUC 615 have led you to think about yourself as a change agent and teacher leader in your school and beyond. Please reflect on your own learning and your growth and change at this point in the Core. In your reflection, please address any of the applicable eight program learning outcomes and the ways in which the performance assessments included in this course and in the Core provide evidence of your knowledge.

Suggested course products which may be provided as evidence of knowledge

- Equity Audit, Policy Brief, and Action Plan (EDUC 615)
- Selected journal/reflective responses from EDUC 615 or other Core coursework, as selected by teacher

Guidelines and Suggested Format for each of the Reflection Points

Length: Aim to limit your response to two well written pages

Focus: Each Reflection Point should include a short description, but will focus on *interpretation* and *analysis* of learning by synthesizing knowledge attained from that learning component of the Core coursework.

Format: Each reflection point *describes, interprets, and examines* why and how the course product(s) provide evidence of the ASTL principles addressed in that learning module. Here you should also discuss the impact of this course/learning module on your teaching practice *and* its impact on P-12 student learning.

GRADING SCALE

| 95-100=A | 90-94=A- | 86-89=B+ | 83-85=B | 80-82=B- | 70-79=C | Below 70=F |

TASKSTREAM REQUIREMENTS

Every student registered for EDUC 615, Educational Change, is required to submit the following assessment, the *Equity Audit, Policy Brief, and Action Plan*, to TaskStream. Evaluation of the performance-based assessment by the course instructor will also be completed in TaskStream. Failure to submit the assessment to TaskStream will result in the course instructor reporting the course grade as Incomplete (IN). Unless the IN grade is changed upon completion of the required TaskStream submission, the IN will convert to an F nine weeks into the following semester.

GMU POLICIES AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

- a. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>]
- b. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>]
- c. Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- d. The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experiences and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>]
- e. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>]
- f. Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during the class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- g. The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>]

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to *Social justice, Innovation, Research-based practice, Ethical leadership, and Collaboration*. Students are expected to adhere to these principles. [See <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values>]

Graduate School of Education

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>]

COURSE SCHEDULE EDUC 615: Spring 2014

This schedule may be changed at the discretion of the professor or as needs of the students or the ASTL Program dictate.

Week	Weekly Overview (See BB for details)
Week 1 Jan. 21 - Jan. 26	<p align="center"><i>Starting our conversation</i></p> <p><u>In-class:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video: Changing Educational Paradigms • Discussion: Educational Policy & School Reform • Find and share: one news article from your local/national media that you think represents a major discourse regarding education
Week 2 Jan. 27 - Feb. 2	<p align="center"><i>Further defining equity and examining student opportunities and outcomes</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity Audit, Policy Brief, Action Plan (PBA) Description • Additional readings/videos posted on BB
Week 3 Feb. 3 - Feb. 9	<p align="center"><i>The educational policy context- historically and today</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hargreaves & Fullan: Ch. 2-3 • Additional readings/videos posted on BB
Week 4 Feb. 10 - Feb. 16	<p align="center"><i>The nature of change and school culture</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hargreaves & Fullan: Ch. 6 • Additional readings/videos posted on BB <p align="center">**Equity Audit data should be collected by this date**</p>
Week 5 Feb. 17 - Feb. 23	<p align="center"><i>Teacher leadership as interrupting</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lieberman & Miller: Ch. 1-2 • Additional readings/videos posted on BB <p><u>What Assignments are Due?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity Audit Data Collection and Analysis by 2/23
Week 6 Feb. 24- Mar. 2	<p align="center"><i>Professional capital and teaching</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hargreaves & Fullan: Ch. 1 and 5 • Additional readings/videos posted on BB
Week 7 Mar. 3 - Mar. 9	<p align="center"><i>Change in action</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hargreaves & Fullan: Ch. 7 • Lieberman & Miller: Ch. 3-4

<p>Week 8 Mar. 10 - Mar. 16</p>	<p>Mason Spring Break Policy Brief Draft Due, submit to BB for feedback by 3/16</p>
<p>Week 9 Mar. 17 - Mar. 23</p>	<p><i>Planning for action</i></p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings/videos posted on BB
<p>Week 10 Mar. 24 – (Mar. 31)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Wrapping it up</i></p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings/videos posted on BB <p>Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete course evaluations • Share action plans <p>What Assignments are Due?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity Audit, Policy Brief, Action Plan (PBA) by March 30, 11:59pm (upload to Taskstream) • Portfolio Reflection Point 4 Due by March 31, 11:59pm (upload to Blackboard Organization site (ASTL Core Cohorts 2013-2014 Org)) • All reading and task items outlined in your weekly module

WEEKLY WORK RUBRIC

	Distinguished	Proficient	Basic	Unsatisfactory
Class Engagement	The student is engaged in all classes; is on time; is prepared; follows outlined procedures in case of absence; the student actively participates in small and/or whole group class meetings; student discusses and references course readings in thoughtful, relevant & meaningful ways;	The student is engaged in all classes; is on time; is prepared; follows outlined procedures in case of absence; the student makes active contributions to the learning group and class; student discusses course readings in relevant ways.	The student may be late or miss class more than once; is prepared for class; participates at least peripherally in group and class discussions; The student is somewhat engaged in all classes; if an absence occurs, the procedure outlined in the syllabus is followed;	The student is chronically late for class; absences are not documented by following the procedures outlined in the syllabus; The student is not prepared for class; and does not actively participate in discussions.

EQUITY AUDIT, POLICY BRIEF, AND ACTION PLAN DESCRIPTION **(EDUC 615 Performance Based Assessment)**

Teacher leaders effect change within their sphere of influence. To do this, teacher leaders need to actively inform themselves about their local context and the opportunities and outcomes related to students within that context. They need engage in praxis- the process of critical reflection and action. To become an informed and critical teacher leader, you will complete an audit of your school. This audit will focus on indicators of equity for various groups of students in your school. After collecting and analyzing the audit data, you will pick one piece of the data that you find the most compelling. This data will be the foundation for a policy brief that synthesizes policy and literature related to the data selected. The policy brief will then be used to create a plan of action for changing something within your school (within your sphere of influence) that will lead to improvement in a related area.

Steps

1. Conduct an Equity Audit.
 - This is located on Blackboard and at the end of this document.
2. Analyze and interpret your audit data.
 - What does the data in each category show and what does it mean?
3. Select a piece of the data that you find the most compelling. Graphically depict this data.
4. Write a 2-3 page policy brief regarding the selected data.
 - Conduct a literature and data (regional, national, global) search.
 - The brief will contain the following sections, all drawn from your literature and data search, as well as class readings:
 - a. Why this data matters broadly (beyond your local context),
 - b. What others are doing in schools related to similar data, including the historical and current initiatives in place to address the data
5. Create an action plan.
 - Using the policy brief you've written, create an action plan that you will use to effect change in your local setting. Include the following sections:
 - a. Describe what is currently happening in your context. Why is it a problem?
 - b. Describe what you want to improve (what will it look like when it's improved?)
 - c. Detail what you will do, why (it should be clear that your policy brief has informed your actions), and how. This should include:
 - i. Specific steps and a corresponding timeline.
 - ii. The resources and permissions needed
 - a. Resources: human, material, from yourself
 - iii. Anticipated obstacles to implementation and proposed solutions to overcoming them
6. Write a 1 page reflective narrative regarding the process. Use course readings to support your reflection. Explore and respond to the following:
 - What did you learn through this process?
 - How do you consider your role and responsibility as a teacher? Has this been affected at all by this process?
 - What are your next steps in your development as a teacher leader?

Note: You will share your data and action plans with your class peers.

<i>Outcome 7</i>	problem for their students and school); Describes with specificity what will be improved; Offers in great detail what will be done, why (it is very clear that the policy brief has informed intended actions), and how; Includes the specific steps and a corresponding timeline; identifies and describes the resources and permissions needed; identifies and describes thoroughly and thoughtfully the anticipated obstacles to implementation and proposed solutions <i>10 points</i>	may be vague; May identify but not describe what will be improved; Offers details about what will be done, why (it is somewhat clear that the policy brief has informed intended actions), and how; Includes specific steps and a corresponding timeline; identifies the resources and permissions needed; identifies a few anticipated obstacles to implementation and proposed solutions but they may be cursory <i>8-9 points</i>	missing or not clear; May offer what will be done, why, and how, but these may be disconnected or vague; It is not clear how the policy brief informed the action; The following may be missing or severely limited: the action steps and a corresponding timeline, the resources and permissions needed, anticipated obstacles to implementation and proposed solutions <i>5-7 points</i>	<i>0-4 points</i>
Reflective Narrative <i>NBPTS Learning Outcome 4</i> <i>ASTL Learning Outcome 4</i>	Reflective narrative indicates strong, thoughtful reflection; Responds deeply to all three prompts; Is specific; Uses more than one course reading <i>5 points</i>	Reflective narrative indicates thoughtful, but general, reflection; Responds to all three prompts; Uses at least one course reading to support points <i>4 points</i>	Reflective narrative indicates limited reflection; Responds to less than three of the prompts; Uses no course readings. <i>3 points</i>	Reflective narrative is missing or exceedingly cursory <i>0-2 points</i>
References <i>NBPTS Learning Outcome 4</i> <i>ASTL Learning Outcome 4</i>	In-text citations and a reference page are included; ALL references are properly cited in APA 6 th edition style (NO APA errors). <i>5 points</i>	In-text citations and a reference page are included; references are cited in APA 6 th edition style, but may contain some minor errors. <i>4 points</i>	There are multiple APA 6 th edition errors. <i>3 points</i>	There is no evidence of in-text citations or a reference list <i>0-2 points</i>
Overall Writing <i>NBPTS Learning Outcome 4</i> <i>ASTL Learning Outcome 4</i>	Grammatically and stylistically well written; the narrative logically flows from one idea to the next; there are NO grammar errors or error patterns. <i>5 points</i>	Grammatically and stylistically well written but contains a few errors or error patterns. <i>4 points</i>	Contains many grammatical errors or error patterns. <i>3 points</i>	Paper may be unreadable. <i>0-2 points</i>

CRITICAL FRIEND GROUP RUBRIC

	Distinguished	Competent	Unsatisfactory
CFG Engagement	<p>Consistent participation in critical friend(s) work; meets all CFG deadlines; Quality work/questions provided to critical friends for discussion; Thoughtfully considers all perspectives raised by critical friends; Meaningful, detailed, and constructive feedback provided to critical friends</p> <p><i>10 pts.</i></p>	<p>Mostly participates in critical friend(s) group work; meets almost all CFG deadlines; provides meaningful, detailed, and constructive feedback OR consistently participates in critical friends groups on time but feedback is not meaningful, detailed, and constructive; there is no evidence that critical friend perspectives have been considered</p> <p><i>8-9 pts.</i></p>	<p>Rarely or never participates in Critical Friends Group work. Feedback is not meaningful, detailed, and constructive. Discounts critical friends' perspectives and questions</p> <p><i>0-7 pts.</i></p>

REFLECTION POINT 4 RUBRIC

	Distinguished	Proficient	Basic	Unsatisfactory
Reflection Point 4	<p>Completely and thoroughly responds to the reflection prompt; Completed on time; submitted to Core Organization site</p> <p><i>5 pts.</i></p>			<p>May not completely or thoroughly respond to the prompt; May not have been completed on time or at all; may not have been submitted to Core Organization site</p> <p><i>0 pts.</i></p>