

St John's University

EDU 5105 – Human Development of Cross Cultural Perspectives

Dr. David Bennardo

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Course Description: This course is designed to provide an in-depth investigation of multicultural education and human development in our modern pluralistic society. We will examine a variety of statistics, theories, and practical scenarios in order to garner a fuller understanding of the students that reside in our modern American classrooms. We will benefit from the collective experiences of our classmates, researchers, and prominent scholars as we look to achieve the critical goal of educating all the students in our schools. While no course can provide the answers to this very complex task, we will endeavor to raise awareness and increase thoughtful discussion of this very important mission.

Course requirements:

Ethnography Project – 30%

Book Presentation – 25%

Article Presentations – 15%

In Class Article Discussions and Case Studies – 15%

~~Cultural Subgroup Presentation – 15%~~

My name is Dr. Dave Bernardo and I will be your instructor for EDU 5105. During this class we will share research, readings, strategies, and many of our personal situations and incidents. These honest interactions help put a human face on administration and provide real world applications for our work. Additionally, I will supply you with my personal email and cell phone. I ask that you copy all school emails to my personal account (docbernardo@gmail.com). This will ensure that your questions and concerns can be answered quickly as they will come up immediately on my iPhone hand held. I will also provide my cell number (631 334-9636), which I welcome you to use. I can respond quickly to text messages and simply ask that you attach your name to the text because I don't yet have your phone numbers programmed into my cell. If you find the need to call my cell please leave a message and I will respond quickly. The bottom line is that there is absolutely nothing keeping you from reaching me so please stay in contact

I have been employed in the education field for 26 years. During that time I served as a teacher, coach, class advisor, department chairperson, assistant principal and principal. In June of 2012 I was appointed as the Superintendent of the South Huntington Schools. It was an honor to become part of this wonderful district and I am enjoying working with the outstanding students, parents, teachers, and administrators. The Board of Education of the South Huntington District has placed great faith in me and I look forward to making them proud in the exciting years to come. South Huntington is a community rich in both tradition and diversity and the years ahead look bright for this dynamic learning family. We are experiencing a genuine Renaissance in our district and the atmosphere is filled with energy and optimism.

Before coming to South Huntington, I served as principal of Harborfields High School on Long Island. I was very fortunate to work in this wonderful school of about 1150 students in Greenlawn, New York. Before coming to Harborfields I was an assistant principal and department chairperson at Elmont Memorial High School in the Sewanhaka Central High School District. It was in these positions (under the leadership of a dynamic principal named Diane Scricca) that I learned to lead with vision, focus on student achievement, and embrace positive school culture.

Before my time at Elmont I served as a social studies teacher, coach, and advisor in both New Hyde Park and Bethpage High Schools. I taught every Regents class and specialized in Advanced Placement American History. I also coached varsity football and lacrosse in the two very powerful programs. I currently live in Greenlawn New York with my wife (also a teacher) and my three children. For nine years I lived in the district where I worked and my oldest daughter and son attended my high school (yes very 90210ish). We were very comfortable with this reality because of the leadership philosophy that our administration embraced.

I look forward to working with each of you in this class. The unique nature of the weekend scheduling will allow for some excellent projects and provide us a chance to work as a team. Additionally, the small size of our group will ensure a genuine interactive experience for all involved.

Our classes are scheduled for May 16, 17, and 18 and then again on June 6, 7, and 8. It is really a condensed time-frame and a very small class so I will do everything possible to keep the activities moving so the days do not drag for you. We will work on a series of teacher

discussions, article reviews, case study activities, cooperative projects, video clips, and student presentations. The varied activities, coupled with the diverse experiences of the class members, should keep things interesting throughout the two weekends.

We are going to be using the following textbook, which can be ordered from the campus bookstore. The book is also available on numerous online sites.

ISBN-10: 0137035098

ISBN-13: 9780137035090

Authors: Gollnick & Chinn

Title & Edition: *Multicultural Education in a Pluralistic Society, 9/E*

Please do not panic if it takes some time for the book to be delivered. While the text will serve as a class resource, it will not function as a line by line determinant of our class curriculum. In fact, the majority of that particular reading will take place during the period between the weekend sessions.

There will also be one additional reading assignment, which will consist of each class member examining a different book. That book review will then be presented to the class on Saturday, June 7th. I have copies of each book so you do not have to incur an additional expense. Each class member will choose a different book so we enjoy the benefit of six different presentations. None of the books are particularly lengthy or heavy reads so the three weeks between classes should leave reasonable time for completion. Nevertheless, any class member with the time or desire to get immediately started with the independent reading can simply declare their book choice with a reply all so everyone knows that the reading has been selected. You can then use your own copy or pick up the book at my home or office. As I mentioned, there should be plenty of time between sessions but you are welcome to proceed in a way that best fits your schedule.

- Savage Inequalities by Jonathan Kozol
- How Race is Lived in America by Correspondents of the New York Times
- Invisible No More by Noguera, Hurrado, and Ferguson
- The Public Schools by Fuhrman and Lazerson
- Improbable Scholars by David L. Kirp
- An Invisible Thread by Laura Schreff and Alex Tresniowski

The other reading assignments will be based upon articles that I have collected for the course. 7 of the 10 articles will be read and discussed in class over the two weekend sessions. I will distribute those articles at the time of each class activity. The remaining three articles are attached to this email. I would ask that you read these articles, take some personal notes on the reading and be prepared for general discussions on May 17th and 18th. I will not be collecting these notes but they will serve as a basis for class discussion.

Note: Some technical problems emerged as I cut and pasted the articles for ease of distribution. I think the transfer errors are now cleaned up and this posting should go through in the corrected form. Please let me know if there is a problem.

I will continue to communicate throughout the next few weeks with items such as the course outline, grading policy, etc. I just wanted to get this out today so class members did not stress over the textbook or pre-class reading assignments. The bottom line is that everything that you need for the first weekend of class is attached to this email. At this point you should start taking a look at the attached articles and make sure to order the book. You are welcome to select a book and begin reading if you so desire.

Please don't hesitate to email (doebennardo@gmail.com), text or call (631 334-9636) if you have any questions at all.

Be well,

Dave Bennardo