

EDUC 413/613 Education for a Changing World

Wintermester 2019

Number of Credits

3

Instructor

Eleni Oikonomidou, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Multicultural Education

Eleni Oikonomidou earned her PhD in education at the University of Washington in 2005 and has been an assistant/associate professor of multicultural education at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) since 2006. Her research interests focus on the social and academic integration of newcomer immigrant students and the development of globally relevant and culturally responsive teaching practices.

Catalog Description

Examines multicultural issues within a broad sociocultural context, focusing on cultural frames of reference for understanding.

Prerequisite(s): [ENG 102](#); [CH 201](#) or [CH 202](#) or [CH 203](#) or [CH 212](#); Junior or Senior standing.

Required Textbooks/Materials

The required readings are available through library electronic reserve (course reserves), and will be linked within WebCampus and available via the library's website.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

- gain a basic understanding of the current discourses on globalization and education;
- identify, analyze and interpret connections between localized events and their global context and identify multiple perspectives pertaining to global issues [CO11];
- understand how historical and current societal forces impact the status of various groups in current US society;
- articulate ways in which social identities such as race, class, and gender intersect in order to influence individual life experiences and/or perspectives [CO10];
- identify the central challenges and possibilities of cross-cultural communication and understanding in education and other related fields;

- critically examine how your configuration within intersecting social forces impacts your worldview [CO13]; and
- develop a plan of action for your future development as a reflective culturally competent and globally aware practitioner.

First Week of Materials/Assignments

The following schedule is subject to change:

January 2: Topic: Globalization, Demographics, and Education
Lecture Notes
Readings
Due: Quiz 1

January 3: Topic: Immigrant Integration
Lecture Notes
Readings
Due: Reflective Essay

January 4: Topic: Ethnicity, Nationality, Race, and Education
Lecture Notes
Readings
Due: Online Discussion 1

Course Details

This course examines multicultural issues within a broad sociocultural context, focusing on cultural frames of reference for understanding.

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the challenges and possibilities that the changing global demographics pose to all educators and reflective practitioners. Three thematic units will provide the foundation of our discussions. These are:

1. globalization, culture, and education;
2. identity construction in a complex world; and
3. culturally responsive and globally aware practice.

We will start our analysis with a focus on the demographic and cultural dimensions of globalization. Then, we will focus on the psychosocial processes of identity construction in our complex societies through the experiences of diverse cultural groups in the United States. We will enrich our analysis with a view of how the intersections of multiple societal forces (such as race/ethnicity, language, social class, gender, class, ability, etc.) influence social, educational, and professional experiences in our society. Our last thematic unit will focus on the creation of culturally responsive and globally aware learning and/or professional communities. In this last section, and through a reflective critical analysis of all issues examined, we will begin to strategize a plan for our future development as culturally competent practitioners.

Grade Breakdown

The point distribution for the course is:

Assignment	Points
Reflective Essay	50
Class Participation (Week 3)	60
Online Discussions (two worth 45 points each)	90
Quizzes	50
Take Home Midterm	100
Research Project: Poster and Written Synthesis	150
In-Class Final	100
<i>Total</i>	<i>600</i>

The percentage distribution for the course is:

Letter	Percentage
A	95–100
A-	90–94
B+	87–89
B	84–86
B-	80–83
C+	77–79
C	74–76
C-	70–73
D+	67–69
D	64–66
D-	60–63
F	below 59