

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Theory and Policy of Adult Education
Faculty of Education
EDTP368/ASPY 2321
Graduate Seminar (Online)
Dr. T. J. Buell

This course will cover various theories and philosophies of adult education, as they were developed over a long history. It can be a really fascinating and interesting online course, if you actively participate in the online activities. The life of the course comes from a willingness of each person to engage one another in online dialogue and questioning about the theories we study. Be ready to give your genuine opinion and to draw upon your considerable experiences in the critique and application of the theories and ideas we study. I will frequently engage you in dialogue and questioning and I hope you will do the same.

I look forward to our term together!

Course Description:

This course examines the writings of major Adult Education theorists including Lindeman, Knowles, Bergevin, and Freire. Adult Education theories are analyzed in historical perspectives. You will be expected to develop and defend your own personal theories of practice.

Course Objectives:

1. To gain an overview of the philosophical foundations of Adult Education within Western civilization.
2. To recognize the names and theories of selected key philosophers in the field of Adult Education.
3. To be able to distinguish between some of the major schools of thought in Adult Education and compare and contrast their main ideas.
4. To be able to demonstrate practical applications of seven Adult Education theories covered in this course.
5. To develop, describe and defend your personal philosophy of Adult Education.

Required Textbooks

Elias, J. L., & Merriam, S. B. (2005). *Philosophical foundations of adult education* (3rd ed.).

Malabar, FL: Krieger Publishing Co.

Merriam, S. (1995). *Selected writings on philosophy and adult education*(2nd ed.). Malabar, FL:

Krieger Publishing Co.

The course design is centered on eight modules and their respective assignments, accessed by clicking the individual Module links on the tools menu. Each module will provide:

1. The competencies targeted for that module.
2. The required readings for that module.
3. An overview of the module.
4. A recommended Analysis Framework.

In Modules 2-8 you will see the competency related to analysis frameworks. It is highly recommended that you complete, on your own (since they are not required to be submitted), the analysis framework described in that module for the theory covered. The analysis frameworks will be a tremendous help for your final paper.

The course has an online midterm and an online comprehensive final. They are in Modules 5 and 8. Please note: my policy for missing any exam (midterm or final) for reasons other than medical or family emergencies is to allow one re-scheduled exam with a 25% point reduction penalty. So don't oversleep or forget to take an exam.

You must submit assignments by the date noted in each assignment to receive full credit. Assignments submitted late will lose 5 points each unless there is a medical reason or emergency. A late essay or paper will lose 10% of the total points for the essay or paper. The following are the types of assignments you will encounter:

Philosophy of Adult Education Inventory

In Module 1, and again in Module 8, you will complete the Philosophy of Adult Education Inventory, to help you assess your own personal philosophy of Adult Education in comparison with the prevailing philosophies in the field of Adult Education. Instructions on how to complete the inventory are in Module 1. The results will be automatically compiled so that you will have a profile based on your responses. This is for your own and for my information. Please keep a record of your scores, and send a copy of both sets of scores to me via Blackboard email as you complete the inventory.

Theory Essay.

The theory essay is an assignment for Module 1. It requires you to demonstrate your understanding about what a theory is. You will submit a 1000 word essay via email to me through Blackboard. Grading criteria for this essay are described in the module assignment along with helpful online indexes for the assignment.

Discussion Assignments and Participation

After the first week of class, when the enrollment stabilizes, the class likely (depending on enrollment) will be divided into smaller discussion groups. Each module will have an assigned question for your consideration. Starting with Module 2, you will be required to complete two discussion assignments in the Discussion Forum. Each assignment has two parts.

The first Discussion Forum assignment requires you to:

1. Post your opinion to the question related to the theory under study, due by the first Sunday (8 pm) of that week.
2. React to the posted opinions of your other group members by the second Sunday (8 pm) of that week.

You will receive feedback at the end of each module (typically the Tuesday morning following the module) concerning the quality of your discussion and your participation. Remember that a Discussion has two components: Posting an opinion the first week and reacting to at least two other posted opinions the second week. I will typically select and ask some students specific questions about their opinions during each module in this discussion forum.

The second Discussion Forum assignment requires you to use the Theory Application Forum where you will:

1. Post your theory application by the first Sunday (8 pm) of that week. This is where you will demonstrate the practical application of the theory under study for that module.
2. Critique two other theory applications posted in your group by the second Sunday (8 pm) in that week.

Remember that a Theory Application Forum has two components: Posting an application of a theory the first week and reacting to two theory applications the second week including at least one suggestion for improving each application you read. Again, you will receive feedback at the end of each module (typically the Tuesday morning following the module) concerning the quality of your theory application and participation.

Annotated Articles.

You will have assigned articles to read from the Elias and Merriam paperback, and from articles provided to you digitally. Starting with Module 2, you will be required to choose and annotate one of those assigned articles for each module. These annotations should be turned in via the Blackboard

Assignments tool by the second Sunday (8pm) of the module. Instructions for the article annotations are provided in Module 2.

Term paper

The term paper is an opportunity to explain your personal philosophy of Adult Education. The paper should be 3,000 words and is described in greater detail in Module 8. The term paper is an important component of the course and the criteria by which it will be graded are described in Module 8. You may submit the paper using the Assignments tool. You are expected to use APA style for all papers in this course. You may find help with APA style [here](#).

On-line Midterm Exam.

You will have an on-line midterm during module 5. Instructions for the midterm are provided in both Module 4 and in Module 5.

Comprehensive Final Exam.

You will have an online final exam during module 8. Instructions for the final exam are provided in Module 8.

EVALUATION

Summary of course requirements and their total points toward the final grade

Assignment Points

Theory Essay 60

Pre & Post Philosophy of AE Inventories 5

Annotations (15/module) 105

Discussion participation

Group Discussion (15/module) 105

Theory Application (25/module) 175

Midterm exam 100

Term paper 200

Final Examination 250

TOTAL 100