

CUNY - Brooklyn

GERTRUDE BERGER, ED. D.
70 EAST 10 STREET #17G
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10003
212/473-2991
E-MAIL: GEBBC@CUNYVM.CUNY.EDU.

Memorandum

To: Erwin H. Epstein
Leadership, Foundations, and Counseling Psychology
Loyola University of Chicago
1041 Ridge Road
Wilmette, IL 60091

From: Prof. Gertrude Berger, School of Education
School of Education, Brooklyn College of the City University of New York

Date: 10/08/99

Re: Comparative Education Course Outline

Please respond to my home address or by e-mail.



School of Education

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Ed. 716
Tuesday 4:20-6:00

Spring 1999
Prof. G. Berger

COURSE OUTLINE

Overview: The comparative perspective in this course is international. The course compares education in Russia during the Communist era and Japan to education in the United States. Comparing Japan and Russia to the United States illustrates the priorities of schools operating under socialist and capitalist economies. However, a global perspective must include developing countries as well as industrialized ones and forces us to examine social issues. Who gets an opportunity to attend school? Are governments financing national literacy campaigns? Is schooling for females a priority?

Politics, economics and history shape educational systems--witness South Africa after apartheid and Hong Kong under Chinese rule and Russia in the post-communist era. Nations throughout the world are struggling to preserve cultural and national traditions while providing an education that will prepare their people to succeed in global markets. Examining the impact of International Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) Studies and conclusions about effective schools worldwide offer teachers an opportunity to study schools throughout the world.

Films and guest speakers will supplement readings in books and journals. Individual and group conferences will be arranged.

Required Readings:

Zadjä, Education in the USSR New York: Pergamon Press, 1980. Book is out of print and reprints can be purchased from Far Better Copy Center, 14 Hillel Place, Price: \$11.50. One copy of the book is in the RESERVE ROOM.

Far Better Copy Center has compiled articles required for the course. This can be purchased at Far Better Copy Center.

SELECT ONE BOOK ON JAPANESE EDUCATION

White, Merry. Japanese Educational Challenge. New York: Free Press, 1987. Paperback. Can be purchased in Brooklyn College Bookstore, \$14.95. One copy is in the RESERVE Room.

OR

Rohlen, Thomas, Japan's High Schools, University of California Press 1983. Can be purchased in BC bookstore, \$16.95.

Optional Readings: Send for a free copy of Japanese Education Today. Publication #OR 87-500. U.S. Department of Education, Washington D.C. 20208

Class Sessions

Feb.2: 1. Overview of course, syllabus, and course requirements

2. SIGN UP FOR ORAL REPORT DATE

3. Complete index card with the following information:

Last name, first.

Telephone

Occupation: If teaching: school, subject and level

Specialization:

Computer skills:

Interests or hobbies:

Any messages?

4. Write a short description of your education. Did you attend public or private school? Evaluate your schooling? How do you feel about it? What or who were the significant educational influences in your life. Please write at least three paragraphs but I will be pleased to read everything you write.

Feb.9: Schooling in the context of Japanese society.

Read: White, Part I or Rohlen, Part I, ch.1,2

ORAL REPORTS BEGIN

NO CLASS TUESDAY FEB.16. CLASSES FOLLOW A FRIDAY SCHEDULE

Feb. 23: White, Japanese Educational Challenge Part II or Rohlen, Japan's High Schools Part I, ch. 3,4

March 2: White, Japanese Education Challenge Part III or Rohlen, Part II

Submit research paper topics today on an index card.

Include three current and scholarly journal references and one book.

March 9 Oral reports continue

March 16: Russian Education Origins of Soviet educational philosophy

Zajda: pp. 1-39

Article: Farrel, J.P. "Conceptualizing Education and the Drive for Social Equality."

Oral reports

Mar 23: Demonstration lecture: Using bibliographic technology:
Meet in B.C. Library Room 208, 4:20 P.M. Guest lecturer:
Prof. Beth Evans, B.C. Library

Mar 30: The Soviet school as an Organization

Zajda: pp. 45-103

Article: Levin, H.M., "Effective School in Comparative Focus."

SPRING RECESS: March 31-April 11

April 13: Moral Education and Political Socialization of Soviet school children. Zajda: pp. 108-144
Article: Husen, Torsten, "Policy Impact of IEA

April 20: Role of Youth Organization in Moral and Political Training.

Zajda: pp. 146-174

Article: Kelly, G.P., "Education, Women, and Change."

April 27 Education for Labor

Zajda: pp. 181-219

Article: Arno, R.F. and Graff, H.J., "National Literacy Campaigns in Historical and Comparative Perspective: Legacies, Lessons, and Issues."

May 4: Education of Teachers

Zajda: pp. 225-248

Film: The Education Race

May 11: RESEARCH PAPERS DUE TODAY. Late papers are downgraded.
International achievement tests

May 18: Comparison of education: U.S., Russia, Japan

May 25: Final examination

Course Requirements: Research paper.

You may select a topic from a recommended list or submit an original topic for approval. The paper should give you an

opportunity to examine, in depth, any aspect of international education that interests you. Please refer to the list of suggested topics. Whatever the topic, the format should adhere to American Psychological Association or Modern Language Association guidelines. These guidelines are in the library and in the book store. Source material should include current educational journals and books. The paper should be 10-12 pages long, double spaced and typed. Footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography are required. DUE DATE: May 11, 1999. Late papers will be downgraded.

I urge you to use the computers in Room 2405 James, 1300 Plaza, and the Microcomputer Laboratory in the Plaza atrium. Don't hesitate to ask for help from personnel in the computer rooms. Before submitting your paper, use a computer application that checks for spelling and grammar errors. Graduate students are urged to request computer searches for their research papers from Brooklyn College library staff. Interlibrary loan is available for all students. The Writing Center in Boylan Hall will assist all students at any stage of the paper from the first draft to the final computer printout. Tutors are available for advice on planning, writing, and evaluating your paper. Call for an appointment or just drop in--telephone number is 718 951 5821.

Oral report: This course is a graduate level seminar and students are expected to participate actively. One oral report is required. Reports should be presented in an interesting and informative manner. Distribute a handout to each student. Reports should be approximately 10-15 minutes long.

Oral reports begin Feb. 9, 1994.

Grading: Examinations: Final: 25%

Research paper: 50%

Class presentations: 25%

Attendance is required. The final grade will reflect excessive absences. If you arrive late, place a note on my desk and I will change the record to reflect lateness instead of absence.

Office hours: Tuesday 3-4 P.M. and by appointment. If these hours are not convenient, please consult the instructor. Room: 2306C James Hall, Telephone: 718 780 5950. If no answer, please call 718 951 5214. leave a message and your telephone number. I will return your call as soon as possible.

RESEARCH TOPICS

A. Examine, in depth, any ONE of the following educational concerns in any country (Africa, Asia, any of the Pacific Rim countries, Europe, etc.) Select a narrow focus rather than a broad topic.

Educational Concerns:

1. Education and national development
2. Social Equality and Education
3. Early childhood, elementary, secondary, higher education (select one) in any country.
4. Literacy and basic education
5. Teacher education
6. Vocational education
7. Education of women
8. Cultural and religious issues in education

B The Russians and/or Japanese excel in Math and Science teaching. Why? Contrast their instruction with ours.

C. Same as above for any other subject: music, etc.

D. Preparing students for the world of work

E. The status of women: Russia, Japan, etc.

F. Education in China: Crucial Issues

G. Compare or contrast education in Germany or Italy during the Fascist period and education in the Soviet Union under Stalin.

H. A critical analysis of textbook treatment of any relevant topic: Holocaust (Germany World War II); Hiroshima and the atomic bomb; Internment of Japanese Americans, Communism, Karl Marx, USSR.

I. Comparison of international achievement tests on any subject: Math, science, art, social studies, language, etc.

J. Education in Russia: Post Communism

K. Comparative Study of Child Care

If you prefer a topic not listed here, please submit it in writing and we will discuss whether it is appropriate for this course. For other topics, consult the following journals and the bibliography in Zajda, J.I. Education in the USSR as well as White and Rohlen on Japan.

Journals:

Russian Education and Society formerly Soviet Education
NOT AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE

Current Digest of the Soviet Press

*** Comparative Education Review August issues have current bibliographies. Bibliographies are a good place to start if you are looking for a research topic.

Journal of Asian Studies

Librarians will assist you in conducting a computer search on your topic and help you obtain interlibrary loan material not available at Brooklyn College. This is a free service to graduate students but requests must be submitted early in the semester so that the material will be available for your report.

INTERNET SOURCES: Consult the librarian for the proper way of listing your references in the bibliography. Like print materials, internet sources must be paraphrased and acknowledged.

FOR FULL-TIME TEACHERS ONLY: INTERESTED IN A THREE WEEK FULLY FUNDED STUDY VISIT TO JAPAN? WRITE TO: Fulbright Memorial Fund

Institute of International Education

1400 K Street NW, Suite 650

Washington DC 20005-2403

Toll free 1 888 JAPAN-FMF