

**College of Education**  
**The University of Memphis**

**International Context of Educational Reforms:  
Politics, Economics and Social Change**

(LEAD 8000xx)

Instructor: Dr. Aziz Talbani

Leadership Department

109C Patterson Hall

Phone: 678-5217

E-mail: atalbani@Memphis.edu

Web: [www.people.memphis.edu/~atalbani/aziz.htm](http://www.people.memphis.edu/~atalbani/aziz.htm)

Class location:

Time:

Office hours:

**Description**

The course is intended to acquaint educators and practitioners with educational reforms and curriculum innovations taking place around the world. The discussion will focus on the dialectics of educational and curricular reforms as change agents and reproducers of social status, economic and gender inequalities, and political and cultural status quo. Major policy and curriculum issues will be illustrated through case studies taken from countries around the world.

**Objectives**

- To provide a comparative review of recent educational reforms in various countries around the world
- To make teachers and practitioners aware of educational reforms and curriculum innovations around the world
- To discuss education's role in social change
- Politics of educational reforms; ideological function of education
- Social and economic inequities and education

## Readings

Readings will be assigned for each session from the given bibliography. Articles and books will be available in the reserve section of the library. Students are required to do suggested readings.

### Key concepts, reforms and the case studies

- Theoretical discourse on educational reforms
- Curriculum reforms - Its relevance
- Colonialism and the development of education
- Background to education in Latin American societies
- Educational reforms in Cuba: Revolution in literacy
- Curriculum reforms in Tanzania: Linking education and work
- Educational change in China: Socialism and education; Mao's Cultural Revolution; Post Mao market economy and education
- Japanese education: tradition and modernity
- Education in Pakistan: Experiment with educational ideologies; Post independence reforms; A feudalists socialist reforms; religious ideology and education
- American educational reforms: Contest of ideology and economy; influence of business on education; influence of cold war on education; issues of social justice and education; globalization and education
- Strategies for Educational Reform - The Views of Paulo Freire
- Other Suggested Educational Reform Strategies
- Efficiency and relevance in education
- Education and unemployment

### Student Assessment:

- (1) Class participation, 15%, assessment based on participation in classroom activities and a write-up on the day's discussion at the end of the class.
- (2) Mid-term exam, 15%; In-class essay examination on text materials and lecture.
- (3) Research on educational reforms issues 10%.
- (4) Field-based group project 20%.
- (5) Book reviews (2) 20%.
- (6) Final Exam, 20%; Research project.

A 5% deduction per day will be made for late submission of assignments.

### Grading:

A = 91-100; B = 81-90; C = 71-80; D = 60-70

### Helpful Suggestions:

- Please visit my web site to access additional academic, educational policy and technological resources. (<http://www.people.memphis.edu/~atalbani/aziz.htm>)
- If you have problems in writing, you can contact the Writing Center, which has tutors who can help you with your writing problems. In the past, students greatly benefited from this service.
- The Writing Center address: 107 Patterson Hall. Telephone 678-4435.
- For acceptable writing style for research papers and book reviews, please consult *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, fourth edition, Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association, 1995.
- Last but not the least, if you are unclear about course work, assignments, or any other issue related to the course, please contact me.

## A Select Bibliography

Altbach, Philip. "Literary Colonialism in the Third World" in **Harvard Educational Review**. 45, May 1975, pp. 226-236.

Arnot, M. and G. Whitty. "From Reproduction to Transformation: Recent Radical Perspectives on the Curriculum from the USA." **BJSE**, Vol. 3, No. 1, 1982:93-103.

Apple, M. (ed.). **Cultural and Economic Reproduction in Education: Essays on Class, Ideology and the State**. London and Boston, Routledge and Kegan, 1982.

Apple, M. "Common Sense Categories and Curriculum Thought" in **Schooling and Capitalism**, Open University, 1976, pp. 174-184.

Bacchus, M.K. "Education for Development in Underdeveloped Countries" in **Comparative Education**. Vol. 17, No. 2, 1981, pp. 215-227.

Bacchus, M.K. "Primary School Curriculum in a Colonial Society" in **Journal of Curriculum Studies**. Vol. 6, No. 1, 1974.

Bailey, Martin. "Tanzania and China" in **African Affairs**. 74, January 1975, pp. 39-49.

Balogh, T. "The Problem of Education in Africa" in **The Centennial Review of Arts and Science**. Vol. 6, No. 4, 1964, pp. 533-541.

Bee, Barbara. "The Politics of Literacy" in Mackie, Robert (ed.), **Literacy and Revolution: The Pedagogy of Paulo Freire**. New York: The Continuum Publishing Company, 1984.

Blaug, M. **An Introduction to the Economics of Education**. London: Penguin Books, 1970.

Carnoy, M. and H. Levin. **Education and Work in the Democratic State**. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1985.

Carnoy, M. "Can Education Alone Solve the Problem of Unemployment" in **The Education Dilemma**. Chapter 9, pp. 153-163.

Carnoy, M. "International Educational Reform: The Ideology of Efficiency" in **The Limits of Educational Reform** by M. Carnoy and H. Levin (eds.). David MacKay and Co., New York, 1976, pp. 245-268.

Carnoy, M. "The Role of Education in a Strategy for Social Change" in **The Limits of Educational Reform**. Ed. M. Carnoy and H. Levin. Pub. D. Mackay Co. Inc., New York, 1976, pp. 269-290.

Combs, P.H. **The World Crisis in Education: A View From the 80's**. Oxford University Press, 1985.

Curle, Adam. **Educational Strategy for Developing Countries**. London: Tavistock Publications, 1963.

Epstein, Erwin H. **The Social Control Thesis and Educational Reform in Dependent Nations**. Elsevier Scientific Publishing Co. Amsterdam.

Fagg, Richard. **The Transformation of the Political Culture in Cuba**. Stanford, C.A.: Stanford University Press, 1969.

Foster, Philip. "The Vocational School Fallacy in Development Planning" in C. Arnold Anderson and M. Bowman (eds.), **Education and Economic Development**. Chicago: Aldine Publishing Company, 1965.

Foster, P. "Dilemmas of Educational Development What We Might Learn From the Past" in **Comparative Education Review**. Vol. 19, No3. October 1975, pp. 375-392

Foster, P. "The Dynamics of Educational Growth in the Late Colonial Period" in his **Education and Social Change in Ghana**, Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, 1965. Chapter 4, pp. 112-145.

Fraser, Stewart E. **Chinese Communist Education Records of First Decade**. Vanderbilt University Press, 1965.

Fraser, Stewart. **Chinese Education and Society**. A Bibliographic Guide. International Arts and Science Press, 1972 (for a full list of references).

Gillette, A. **Cuba's Educational Revolution**. Fabian Research Series, 1972.

Hamilton, Nora. "State Autonomy and Dependent Capitalism in Latin America", **The British Journal of Sociology**, Vol. XXXII, No. 3, September, 1981:305-329.

Hanf, Theodor et al. "Education: An Obstacle to Development?" in **Comparative Education Review**. Vol. 19, No. 1, February 1975, pp. 68-87.

Harberger, Arnold. "On Allocating Resources to Education" in J. Simmon (ed.) **The Education Dilemma** (text), Chapter 13, pp. 199-204.

Harbison, F. and C. Myers. "Strategies in Human Resource Development" in M. Blaug, **Readings in the Economics of Education**. Penguin Books, 1969, Vol. II, pp. 13-60.

Harbison, F. "The Generation of Unemployment in Newly Developing Countries" in J.R. Sheffield (ed.) **Education, Employment and Rural Developments**, pp. 173-193.

Hoogvelt, A.M. **The Sociology of Developing Countries**. Macmillan, London, 1967.

Hurst, Paul. "Some Issues in Improving the Quality of Education" in **Comparative Education**. Vol. 17, No. 2, 1981, pp. 185-193.

O'Connor, Edmund. "Contrasts in Educational Development in Kenya and Tanzania" in **African Affairs**. 73, January 1974, pp.

Read, G. "The Cuban Revolutionary Offensive in Education" in **Comparative Education Review**. Vol. 14, No. 2.

Simmons, John. **The Education Dilemma Policy Issues for Developing Countries in the 1980's**. Pergamon Press, 1980.

Young, M. "Curriculum Change Limits and Possibilities" in **Schooling and Capitalism**. Ed. R. Dale et al., Open University, 1976.