History of Urban Education

Spring 2023

Conklin 445

Thursday 2:30-5:20

Professor Steven Diner

Office: 420 Conklin Hall

E-mail: stevendiner@gmail.com

26:510:564 (History)

26:570:516 (Political Science)

26:050:540 (American Studies)

Syllabus

INTRODUCTION

This course examines the history of urban education in the United States and provides an historical foundation for understanding contemporary urban educational policies. The course is taught as a colloquium. Each week we will discuss an assigned book. **Class attendance and active participation in discussions is required of all students.** You will prepare a research paper on some aspect of the history of public education in Newark or some other local community, or an
historiographic essay on some aspect of historical scholarship on urban education. Toward the end of the semester, you will receive a broad question to address in a final essay.

**Assigned Texts**


Ansley T. Erickson, *Making the Unequal Metropolis: School Desegregation and Its Limits*.


**Class Schedule**

January 19

   Course Introduction

January 26

February 2

Class Discussion: Julia Grant, *The Boy Problem: Educating Boys in Urban America*.

Submit topic for your research paper or historiographic essay.

February 9

Class Discussion: Kathryn Neckerman, *Schools Betrayed: The Roots of Failure in Inner-City Education*.

February 16

Class Discussion: Adam Laats, *The Other School Reformers: Conservative Activism in American Education*.

February 23

Class Discussion: Ansley Erickson, *Making the Unequal Metropolis: School Desegregation and Its Limits*.

March 2

March 9


March 16

Spring Recess: Class Does Not Meet

March 23


March 30

Class does not meet.

April 6

April 13


Research or historiographic paper due.

April 20

Class Discussion Steven Diner, *Universities and their Cities: Urban Higher Education in America.*

April 27

Class Discussion: LaDale Winling, *Building the Ivory Tower: Universities and Metropolitan Development in the Twentieth Century.*

May 10

Final Essay due

Written Assignments

You must prepare either a research paper or an historiographical essay.
Research Paper: It should examine some aspect of the history of education in Newark or nearby communities. You can research the history of a particular school, an organization, a reform movement, a policy issue or another subject approved by the professor. You will need to identify appropriate primary sources to draw upon for your research.

Historiographic Essay

This essay should compare the ways different historians have written about some aspect of the history of education in the United States. You will need to discuss at least ten books in addition to any books assigned for the course that address your topic.

Final Essay

The final essay must address a broad question about the history of urban education in America which you will receive a few weeks before the end of the semester.

**Academic Integrity**

Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University’s educational and research missions, and violations
of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community.