SYLLABUS

HISTORY OF URBAN EDUCATION

26: 510:564:01 (History), 26:050:521.02 (American Studies), 26:977:611:01 (Urban Systems)

Fall, 2018

Time: Thursday, 2:30 – 5:10 PM

Place: Conklin Hall 448

Instructor: Steven Diner

Office: Conklin 420

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INTRODUCTION

This course examines the history of urban education in the United States, and provides an historical foundation for understanding urban educational policy today. 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 also prepare a research paper based on some aspect of the history of public education in Newark or some other local community, or an historiographic essay on some aspect of the historical literature on urban education.

ASSIGNED TEXTS


ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

Class Discussion – 20%

Research Paper/ Historiographic Essay & Oral Presentation– 30%

Take-Home Final Essay – 50%

CLASS SCHEDULE

September 6
Readings: Diane Ravitch, Left Back

September 13.
Readings: William J. Reese, Testing Wars in the Public Schools.
Due: Proposed Research Paper Topic

September 20
Readings: Kathryn Neckerman, Roots of Failure in Inner-City Education
Due: Research Paper/ Historiographic Essay Topic & Sources

September 27
Readings: Julian Grant, The Boy Problem.

October 4

October 11
Readings: Daniel Perlstein, Justice, Justice.

October 18
Readings: Russell Rickford, We Are An African People.
October 25
Readings: Joel Perlmann, *Ethnic Differences*

November 1
Readings: Christina Collins, “*Ethnically Qualified*”

November 8
Readings: Steve Golin, *The Newark Teachers Strike*. April 11

November 15
Readings: Emily Straus, *Death of a Suburban Dream*

November 22
Class does not meet

November 29
Readings: Steven Diner, *Universities and Their Cities*.

December 6
Oral Presentations of Research/Historiography Papers

Due: Research Paper or Historiographic Essay

December 17
Final Essay Due

**RESEARCH PAPER**

Your research paper should deal with some aspect of the history of education in Newark or nearby communities. You could research the history of a particular school, an organization, a specific reform movement, an educational leader, a policy issue, and other subjects. You will need to identify appropriate
primary sources to draw upon for your research. These might include records of a
school or organization, newspaper articles, school or system publications, oral
history interviews and much more. Once you have identified a topic, we will have
individual conferences to help you shape your project.

HISTORIOGRAPHY ESSAY

Your historiographic essay should compare the ways different historians have written about some aspect of the history of urban 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

Toward the end of the semester, you will receive a broad question to address in your final essay. You will be expected to draw upon your extensive readings and discussions on the history of urban education in an integrated essay. There will be no in-class examinations.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The university’s Academic Integrity Policy can be found at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf. When submitting your research paper and final essay, please attach the following statement with your signature: On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment.

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

There is a vast historical literature on the history of urban education. In addition to the books we will discuss in class, the following are some of the many others that are valuable:


