

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

PFS2013 - Philosophical and Socio-cultural Issues in Education

Offering Department:	International Education and Lifelong Learning
Credit Units:	3
Course Duration:	One Semester
Medium of Instruction:	English
Pre-requisite(s):	Nil
Course Offering Semester*:	Semester B, 2018/19

** The offering semester is subject to change without prior notice*

Synopsis:

This course has two connected aims: (1) to develop students' understanding of education from different philosophical and socio-cultural perspectives; and (2) to engage students in a critical examination of a number of contemporary and longstanding issues in education, particularly those relevant to the Hong Kong context. In considering philosophical perspectives, the course will focus on questions related to the nature and aims of education, and on what it means to be an educated person in the world. Students will engage in classroom dialogue and will be encouraged to develop a personal philosophy of education and lifelong learning. In regard to socio-cultural perspectives, the focus will be on understanding how specific features of the educational system, and its policies and practices are related to various social forces and group interests.

Course Content:

- Issues in education related to the three major questions: namely, 1) whose interest schools should serve; 2) what schools should teach; and 3) how we should organize and operate schools, and factors (including political, economical, and socio-cultural) contributing to their formation will be examined. Important concepts like justice, fairness, and equity ...etc. which are involved in such issues will be critically studied in the light of major philosophical and socio-cultural concepts/perspectives. In reflecting issues from socio-cultural perspectives, conflict theories, functionalism ... etc. can be introduced.

<p>■ Different philosophical perspectives or traditions, comprising Confucianism, Essentialism, Progressivism, and Existentialism... etc., will be discussed. Students are encouraged to reflect and arrive at a personal philosophy of education. The ideas of an ‘educated person’ and a ‘citizen’ will also be philosophically deliberated and related educational issues will be examined to identify alternative views.</p>
<p>■ Major Hong Kong educational policies will be selected for study, such as policies about: medium of instruction, school-based management, DSS, Liberal Studies, voucher scheme, citizenship education, integrated education, education for NCS...etc.</p>
<p>■ The notion of ‘education / teacher’ will be studied and potential issues will be identified for careful examination. Positive personality and work attitude will be encouraged.</p>

Assessment (*Indicative only*):

Tasks	Weighting
Final essay	70%
Participation in Learning Activities	30%

Detailed Course Outline:

http://www.eduhk.hk/fehd_prog/view.php?secid=5803