

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

**PFS2013 - Philosophical and Socio-cultural Issues in Education**

Offering Department:	International Education
Credit Units:	3
Course Duration:	One Semester
Medium of Instruction:	English
Pre-requisite(s):	Nil
Course Offering Semester*:	Semester II

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

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**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 in both local and global contexts. 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. 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. Students will be encouraged to develop a personal philosophy of education and lifelong learning, and to use relevant theoretical knowledge as a tool for reflection on practice, especially in field experience.

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**Course Content:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Issues in education related to the three major questions (viz. whose interest schools should serve, what schools should teach, and how we should organize and operate schools), and factors (including political, economic, 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 on issues from socio-cultural perspectives, conflict theories, functionalism, etc. can be introduced.</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Different philosophical perspectives or traditions, comprising Confucianism,</li></ul>   |

<p>Essentialism, Progressivism, 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 the related educational issues will be examined to identify alternative views.</p>
<p>■ Major local and global educational policies will be selected for study, such as policies on medium of instruction, school-based management, voucher scheme, citizenship education, STEM education, integrated education, education for ethnic minorities, etc.</p>
<p>■ The notion of ‘education / teacher’ will be studied and the potential issues will be identified for careful examination. Positive personality and work attitude will be encouraged in order to prepare students for a professional career in education / teaching.</p>

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**Assessment (*Indicative only*):**

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

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**Detailed Course Outline:**

[https://uedhk-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/q/personal/fehd\\_eduhk\\_hk/ETmBmKOOoNFBuV-oPOJS3UcBJCyjbckO\\_jBY1nWy7SlAKA?e=vykuqP](https://uedhk-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/q/personal/fehd_eduhk_hk/ETmBmKOOoNFBuV-oPOJS3UcBJCyjbckO_jBY1nWy7SlAKA?e=vykuqP)