

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis
ELPA/870 Politics of Education
Rm. 1252 Educational Sciences Building
Tuesdays 4:40 to 7:10 p.m.
Politics of Education

Instructor:

Mike Thompson, Ph.D.

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(608) 628-8056 or (608) 266-3584

Course Description

ELPA 870 is a graduate level course on the politics of education. The course emphasizes educational politics and policymaking in the U.S. at the state and federal level. The purpose of the course is to provide students with an understanding of the forces that shape K-12 educational policy, with an emphasis on the governance structures, influences and connection between federal, state, and local policy decisions.

Objectives

Understand the governance structures that impact education policy at the state and federal level.

Understand forces and influences that shape education policy at the state and federal level.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Attendance and participation-25%
2. Presentation-35%
3. Final paper-40%

Special Accommodations

I wish to fully include students with special challenges in this course. Please let me know if you need any special accommodations in the curriculum, instruction or assessments to enable you to fully participate. I will maintain the confidentiality of the information you share with me.

Required Readings

Wirt, F.M. & Kirst, M.W. (2005) *The Political Dynamics of American Education* (Third Edition).
McCutchan Publishing Corporation.

Debray, E.h. & Kaestle, C (2006) *Politics, Ideology & Education: Federal Policy During the Clinton and Bush Administrations*. New York: Teachers College Press.

Class Sessions

January 22: Introduction to the Politics of Education; Past, Present and Future Policy Issues

January 29: Political Context and Framing

Wirt, F.M. & Kirst, M.W. (2005) The Political Dynamics of American Education (pp.3-97)

February 5: The History and Evolution of State Role in Education Policy

Wirt, F.M. & Kirst, M.W. (2005) The Political Dynamics of American Education (pp.223-276)

February 12: K-12 Educational Governance

State of Wisconsin Blue Book 2007-2008

February 19: K-12 Educational Governance-Wisconsin State Legislature (Cont'd).

February 26: K-12 Educational Governance-State Education Agencies

March 4: K-12 Educational Governance-Wisconsin Education Budget Process

March 11: Interest groups, Influentials, Think Tanks and Media

March 18: Spring Break- No Class

March 25: Education Policy and Politics at the Federal Level

Debray, E.h. & Kaestle, C (2006) Politics, Ideology & Education: Federal Policy During the Clinton and Bush Administrations. (pp. 1-77)

April 1: No Child left Behind-Past, Present and Future

April 8: Federal Policy Issues and Trends

Debray, E.h. & Kaestle, C (2006) Politics, Ideology & Education: Federal Policy During the Clinton and Bush Administrations. (pp. 81-155)

April 15: Federal Policy Issues and Trends (Cont'd)

April 22: Student Presentations and Discussions

April 29: Student Presentations and Discussions

March 6: Summary and Conclusions: Current and Future Challenges to Public Education