Seminar: International Perspectives on Educational Reform

AMLT-GE 2072

194 Mercer Street Room 210

Spring 2013

Professor Teboho Moja
School of Education
82 Washington Square East
Pless, Suite 600
New York, NY 10003

Office Hours: Tuesdays
2:00pm - 4:00pm (confirm by email)

Tel. (212) 998-5589
Fax. (212) 995-4047
Email: teboho.moja@nyu.edu

Course Summary

This graduate seminar will give students an opportunity to do an in-depth study of education reform in an international context. The goal is to understand global education policy reform agendas and pay attention to
the contexts and variables contributing or hampering reform initiatives.

**Description of the Course**

This is a seminar with emphasis on original research, the exchange of ideas, and discussion. The seminar will explore educational reform’s contextual variables and the push and pull factors, such as globalization and key international institutions involved in reform.

**Course Objectives**

The course will provide an opportunity to gain an understanding of world trends in education reform through discussions and research. Specifically, students will:

§ Develop a thorough understanding of the economic, social, and political dimensions of educational reform;

§ Gain a greater awareness of the role of international, national, and local actors and institutions in educational reform; and

§ Become familiar with a chosen country’s reform attempts and analyse one reform issue in a comparative context to the US.

**Course Requirements and Grading**

Each student will choose a country of interest to study in depth. An attempt will be made to cover all regions of the world - Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. Students will write a research paper that will be developed through several tangential assignments during the semester.

To show progress on the final paper, students will first hand in a two page
profile of their chosen country, describing its education system, then an annotated bibliography (minimum ten - books and journal articles) and an outline of their paper. Short presentations will be made in class to share learning experiences with other students.

The final product is due on the last day of our class. There will be no extension of the due date.

Writing Assignments:

Unless otherwise noted, all assignments must be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, and with readable fonts. All papers must follow the formatting, referencing, and style of the Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association. Your references should be scholarly. While it is acceptable to use magazines, newspapers, the Internet, or any other source from the popular media, you should critically assess their worth. Research projects should be primarily based on books, journal articles and other scholarly work. Furthermore, you should use original sources. Do not cite work that you have not read. In your writing assignments, please do not cite references in your bibliography or reference list that you have not used in the text of your paper.

Online discussion forum: The purpose of this forum will be to discuss the course readings. There is no particular requirement for length, but you are encouraged to provide thoughtful, reasoned comments and counterpoints that will stimulate conversation about topics scheduled for the class session.
**Blog:** The purpose of the blog will be to connect course content to outside information and ideas. With your working group, you will search for and bring in outside resources in the form of news and media stories, current events, video clips, or issues related to your professional experience. You will create a blog that your group members can access using a free blog source, such as Wordpress.com, Blogspot.com or any other, (you are free to use another blog resource if you prefer as long as it is free and accessible). This will be used as a platform for exploring topics of academic interest that address reform issues. To facilitate collaboration, the class will be divided into smaller working groups around a regional area of interest. Use this as a forum for posting thoughts and opinions on current events, links to articles, video, and other content, and anything that you discover outside of the course content that might be of interest to the class. You will collaborate with your group to decide on how to create and post to your blog. Post to the blog at bi-weekly section. Publicize your updates to the class so that they have the opportunity to read and comment. You will present your blog to the class on scheduled dates.

**2 Analytical Reflection Pieces:** This will be a 5 page essay in which your group reflects on the topics assigned on two days that no face to face meetings are scheduled.

**Presentations:** There will be a group presentation of a chosen agency in class on 2/27 plus a one page summary of the issues handed in. You will also lead discussions of assigned readings based on your chosen countries from week 9 to week 14.

**Paper Proposal:** This will be the proposal for your final paper. This will consist of a one page profile of your country, a one page summary of your proposed topic, along with a one or two page outline of the major sections that you intend to include. In addition, you will include 10-15 sources that you have identified to use for your paper.
**Final Research Paper:** The final paper will be about 10 pages on a reform issue in your chosen country. Draw on the assigned readings and issues discussed in class as well as additional readings.

**Guest Speaker:** There will be a guest speaker on April 03.

**Assignments, Due Dates, and Grading:**

1. Group Reflection Papers due 2/27, 3/13 and 4/03 – 15%
2. Online discussions, blog, class participation and presentations – 10%
3. Paper proposals due (3/13) – 25%
4. Final paper due (5/08) – 50%

Note that attendance is critical for a seminar course so points will be deducted for missed classes without prior permission from the professor.

**Statement on Academic Integrity:**

Read statement in course documents on NYU classes and will discuss in class.

**Required Reading**

2. Rotberg, Iris C. (ed.) (2011): Balancing Change and Tradition in Global Education Reform. Rowman And Littlefield Education. (Note that the earlier version is also fine since nothing has changed in it and will be cheaper)

Additional Reading List:


Websites:

[http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org](http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org) – education plans and policies from UNESCO member states
Week 1..............................................
Introduction

1/30 Introduction to the course; personal context; types of reform; reasons to study reform; examples; review syllabus; handouts, assign teams for collaborative work for presentation in week 5 and for blogging.
Week 2....................................................
Educational Reform at a Global level

2/6
Part 1- a.
Collins and Wiseman
b. World Bank Group Education

Wiseman and Baker – The Worldwide Explosion of Internationalized Education Policy (Handout)

BLOGGING
GROUPS ASSIGNED – COME TO CLASS HAVING CHosen YOUR COUNTRY OF INTEREST FROM ROTBERG)

Week 3............................................... Part 2
- a. Shafiq b. Heyneman

2/13
Week 4............................................. Part 2
– a. Arnove b. Boyd and Owens

2/20
Diane Brook
Napier – Implementing Educational Transformation Policies (Handout)

First blogging assignment due followed by bi-weekly posting due on Wednesdays.

Week 5

2/27 .............................................
Group Presentations –
International agencies/regional agencies and their reform issues (Choose and agency, eg ,UNESCO,
TIMMS, PISA, OECD, EU, SADC etc) - one page group summary paper due.

PART II CRITICAL ISSUES AND PERSPECTIVES ON REFORM

Week 6................................. Collins and Wiseman book a) Mundy and Menashy, b) Stromquist, c) Klees (Online group discussions only – all posting due by class time)

3/6

Week 7................................. a) Joshi and Smith b) Gabriel and Allington c) Vangalis-
2 PAPERS DUE – 1st GROUP REFLECTIONS AND PROPOSALS

Week 8 ........................................... a)n Edwards
b) McGrath (Online discussion only – all posting due by class time)

3/27

PART III Case Studies and related blog presentations. This section has been modified based on country selections.

Week 9 .........................GUEST SPEAKER - Rahul Chouhada ........... Reforms in context of Political and Economic Changes

4/03

2nd GROUP REFLECTION PAPERS DUE

Week 10 ............................... ASIA
4/10  
Reading Assignment: Rotberg Chapters - China
1, Japan 10, Singapore 11

Week 11......Europe

4/17  
Reading Assignment: Rotberg chapters - Russia
2, Germany 5, England 14

Week 12.......................... Pacific and Africa

4/24  
Reading Assignment: Rotberg chapters Australia
15, New Zealand 13, South Africa 3

Week 13......................... North America and Latin America

5/01 (AERA Conference)  
Reading Assignment: Rotberg chapters
Canada12, US 16, Chile 4

Week 14.............................. Consolidation of lessons learned

5/08  
Reading Assignment: tbc
FINAL PAPER DUE