

**PA 383C: Politics and Processes  
Comparative Education Policy  
Unique #63220**

**Spring 2010**

**Monday 9-12, SRH 3.216**

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Office Hours: Mon. 1-4  
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SRH 3.240

**Course Description**

Education policy is formed through a process of innovation, diffusion, and adaptation. Today's education reforms are often packaged as generic solutions for social and economic problems around the globe, with international organizations such as the World Bank and UNESCO leading policy development. At the same time, evidence shows that the best education policies respond to local culture, economic climate, and social structure.

This course will examine the development, adaptation, and implementation of generic education policies across diverse local contexts. Students will develop an understanding of the policy process in education, skills for comparative policy analysis, and the ability to advise stakeholders on appropriate education interventions.

**Grading**

Grades will be based on a combination of class participation (10%) and a semester-long individual project (90%).

Class participation includes regular attendance, preparation, participation in discussion, and cooperative participation in peer reviews. (10 points)

The semester-long project is a policy analysis of an education reform outside the US. Students must meet deadlines throughout the semester for all six stages of the project. (90 points)

**Late assignments are not accepted.**

**Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty**

Students are expected to be familiar with, understand, and follow the University's policies on academic integrity. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, please visit the Student Judicial Services website at:

[www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/](http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/)

## Students with Disabilities

The University of Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-6441 TTY.

## Textbooks

Available on reserve at Benson Library and at UT Coop:

Kubow, Patricia K. & Fossum, Paul R. (2007). *Comparative Education: Exploring Issues in International Context*. Pearson Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Berkman, Michael and Plutzer, Eric (2005). *Ten Thousand Democracies: Politics and Public Opinion in America's School Districts*. Georgetown University Press: Washington, DC.

Available on reserve at the Benson Library or at amazon.com:

Rose, Richard (2005). *Learning from Comparative Public Policy: A Practical Guide*. Routledge: London.

Additional weekly required readings on ERES

## Class Schedule January 25- March 8

### Part I: The Policy Process from a Comparative Perspective

#### Wk 1 Jan. 25 Theories of the Policy Process

Readings Adolino & Blake (2001). *Comparing Public Policies*, chapters 1-3

#### Wk 2 Feb.1 Comparative Analysis of Policy Process in Education

Readings Adolino & Blake (2001), chapters 4 & 10

Tarabini, A. (2010). Education and poverty in the global development agenda. *International Journal of Educational Development* 30 (2), 204-212.

Heyneman, S.P. (2003). The history and problems in the making of education policy at the World Bank 1960-2000. *International Journal of Educational Development* 23, 315-337.

### Part II: Theories and Issues in Comparative Education

#### Wk 3 Feb. 8 Theories of comparative education

Readings Kubow & Fossum, Chapter 1-2

Dei, G (2005). The challenge of inclusive schooling in Africa: A Ghanaian Case Study. *Comparative Education* 41 (3), 267-289.

Schultz, T. (2004). School subsidies for the poor: Evaluating the Mexican Progressa poverty program. *Journal of Development Economics* 74, 199-250.

<b>Wk 4</b> Readings	<b>Feb. 15</b>	<p><b>Purposes of school</b> Kubow &amp; Fossum, Chapter 3</p> <p>Li, J. (2009). Fostering citizenship in China's move from elite to mass education: An analysis of students' political socialization and civic participation. <i>International Journal of Educational Development</i> 29, 382-398.</p> <p>Stromquist (2006). Women's rights to adult education as a means to citizenship. <i>International Journal of Educational Development</i> 26, 140-152.</p> <p>Oketch, M. (2007). To vocationalise or not to vocationalise? Perspectives on current trends and issues in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in Africa. <i>International Journal of Educational Development</i> 27, 220-234.</p>
<b>Wk 5</b> Readings	<b>Feb. 22</b>	<p><b>Access and opportunity</b> Kubow &amp; Fossum, Chapter 4</p> <p>Chowdhury, A. et al. (2002). Enrolment at the primary level: Gender difference disappears in Bangladesh. <i>International Journal of Educational Development</i> 22(2), 191-203.</p> <p>Dwyer et al. (2010). Expanding educational access in Eastern Turkey: A new initiative. <i>International Journal of Educational Development</i> 30 (2), 193-203.</p> <p>Herz, B. &amp; Sperling, G. (2004). What works in girls' education? Evidence and policies from the developing world. New York: Council on Foreign Relations.</p>
<b>Wk 6</b> Readings	<b>Mar. 1</b>	<p><b>Accountability</b> Kubow &amp; Fossum, Chapter 5</p> <p>Carnoy &amp; Loeb (2002). Does external accountability improve student outcomes? A cross-state analysis. <i>Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis</i> 24, 305-331.</p> <p>Carnoy, M (1998). National voucher plans in Chile and Sweden: Did privatization make for better education? <i>Comparative Education Review</i>, 42(3), 309-337.</p>
<b>Wk 7</b> Readings	<b>Mar. 8</b>	<p><b>Visit to UT Elementary</b> Betts, J. (2005). The economic theory of school choice. In <i>Getting Choice Right</i>. J. Betts &amp; T. Loveless, eds. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.</p> <p>Hoxby et al. (2009) How New York City's charter schools affect achievement. Report of the New York City Charter Schools Evaluation Project.</p>
Wk 8		Spring Break

### Part III: Frameworks for Comparative Policy Analysis

- Wk 9 Mar. 22 Theoretical Framework  
Kubow & Fossum, Chapter 7
- Wk 10 Mar. 29 Learning Lessons  
Rose, Intro-Step 5 (pp. 1-76)
- Wk 11 Apr. 5 Developing Models  
Rose, Step 6-10 (p. 77-139)

### Part IV: Case Studies for Comparison

- Wk 12 Apr. 12 Decentralization  
Berkman & Plutzer
- Wk 13 Apr. 19 Decentralization  
Gershberg, A.I. (1999). Education 'decentralization' processes in Mexico and Nicaragua: Legislative versus ministry-led reform strategies. *Comparative Education*, 35(1), 63-80.
- Daugherty, R. & Elfed-Owens, P. (2003). A national curriculum for Wales: A case study of education policy-making in the era of administrative devolution. *Journal of Educational Studies*, 51(3), 233-253
- Additional readings provided by students
- Wk 14 Apr. 26 Stakeholders  
Shipps, D. (2003). Pulling together: Civic capacity and urban school reform. *American Educational Research Journal*, 40(4), 841-878.
- Additional readings provided by students
- Wk. 15 May 3 Student-led Discussion