Baddorf Syllabus

**Philosophy of Education**

**Course Description**

What are the goals of education? How can they be achieved in ways that promote the dignity and flourishing of every member of society? Philosophy of education is concerned with questions like these, which lie at the intersection of educational endeavor and philosophical reflection on broader issues of justice and knowledge. In this class we will explore these issues, drawing on a variety of disciplinary perspectives and historical periods, from Plato to *Brown vs. Board of Education* and contemporary social science.

**Texts**

Randall Curren, *Philosophy of Education: An Anthology*.

Select other readings provided by the instructor.

**Tentative List of Readings**

Pt. 1: The Nature of Education

Plato, "Knowing How to Rule and be Ruled as Justice Demands"
Isocrates, "An Educated Person Can Speak Well and Persuade"
Aristotle, “Liberal vs. Mechanical Education”
Locke, “The Exercise of Reason”
Rousseau, “The Education of Nature”
Pt. 2 Education and Justice
Feinberg, “The Child's Right to an Open Future”
Mill, “Education and the Limits of State Authority”
Friedman, “The Role of Government in Education”
Green, “The Law of Zero-Correlation”
Gutmann, “Interpreting Equal Educational Opportunity”

Pt. 3 Critical Thinking and Learning
Locke, “Reasoning with Children”
Rousseu, “Against Reasoning with Children”
Rousseu, “Learning by Discovery”
Grandy, “Constructivisms and Objectivity: Disentangling Metaphysics from Pedagogy”
Elgin, “Education and the Advancement of Understanding”

Pt. 4 Curriculum and the Content of Education
Curren, “Cultivating the Moral and Intellectual Virtues”
Brighouse, “Should We Teach Patriotic History?”
Reiss, “Conflicting Philosophies of School Sex Education”

Pt. 5 Sectarian Education in Diverse Societies
Levinson and Levinson, “‘Getting Religion’: Religion, Diversity, and Community in Public and Private Schools”
Hand, “A Philosophical Objection to Faith Schools”