SPED 592 (37241)
Seminar on Theory and Research in Special Education: Intersections of Disability, Race, Ethnicity, Class, and Gender in Education
SPRING 2015

Course: SPED 492
Call #: 37241
Day offered: Wednesdays
Time: 5-8 pm.

This doctoral seminar will provide students theoretical and analytical tools to examine equity issues at the intersections of disability, race/ethnicity, class, and gender in education. We will anchor our discussions and learning in the longstanding disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic minorities in special education, their disproportionate placement in segregated environments in the U.S and abroad, and their high rates of incarceration (that is, the so called school-to-prison pipeline). Through this class, students will learn about the history of the relationship between ability, racial/ethnic, language, class, and gender differences and theoretical lenses that have been used to understand this relationship such as Disability Studies in Education (DSE), Intersectionality, Dis/ability critical race studies (Dis/Crit), and sociocultural theories of difference. In addition, the students will examine how current policies (i.e., market and accountability policies) and practices (e.g., response to intervention) address and/or contribute to these equity issues. Throughout the class the students will work towards a final product that will vary according to students’ stage in the doctoral program (e.g., a literature review, a pilot study proposal, or comprehensive exam question, or a chapter of a dissertation). Our learning tools will include but not limited to scholarly articles and books, novels, short stories, poems, and movies.

The following is a sample of the kind of learning tools students can expect to engage with in this class.

Scholarly articles


Ferri, B. A., & Connor, D. J. (2010). 'I was the special ed. girl': Urban working-class young women of colour. *Gender and Education*, 22(1), 105-121.

Hancock, A. (2007). When multiplication doesn’t equal quick addition: Examining intersectionality as a research paradigm. *Perspectives on Politics* 5, 63-79.


Movies
Going to school. Ir a la escuela. Richard Cohen

Books