

With Literacy and Justice for All

UHON 302-004 | M | 12:00-2:30 | SHC 9 | 30817

Fulfills A&S Group IV: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Diane Rawls

There is one institution in American culture that affects everyone, regardless of age, gender, income: the results of our education system are all around us. Our school produce lawyers, doctors, engineers, politicians, teachers, fast-food servers and taxi drivers. But what kind of job are we doing? Do we educate all students equally, and are they literate when they finish their time in the system? How well are we preparing people to take their places in an ever-changing world, where knowledge and information are transformed every minute of every day? What do we want our students to learn, and why? This seminar proposes to study the origins and meanings of education from elementary school through the university level. We will look at what educational systems are like, what teachers and students do (and don't do), and whether school reform will ever really work. Topics will include who pays for what education; how schools are funded; how do race and gender affect education; who decides what gets taught; how much can society realistically expect the system to provide, and to whom; who decides what ethics and morality will be taught; where does the university fit into the reform process; are literacy and justice for all really possible in this day and age?

Readings

Thoreau, *Uncommon Learning*; Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*; course reader to be purchased in Honors office.

Requirements

One small group presentation; two 5 pg. analytical papers; group presentation as part of the final group research project

About the Instructor

Diane Rawls holds a PhD. in Medieval Romance Languages from UNM. She has taught in Albuquerque's public schools as well as at UNM. She believes strongly that the American public education system is the most important institution in the country, and that we owe it to future generations to maintain and improve it, not allow it to be dismantled.

300-Levels