ENGL 696E/EDCI 613

The American Teacher
The History of US Teacher Preparation, 1821-Present

Spring 2004
Professor Janet Alsup
Thursdays, 6:30-9:20

This seminar will survey the history of secondary and post-secondary teacher preparation, specifically in English studies. Related issues to be explored include gender, class, race/ethnicity, religion, assessment, and politics and their historical connections to teacher preparation and professional development. Also addressed will be teacher preparation curricula, pedagogical philosophies underlying teacher preparation, professionalization of post-secondary faculty, and the dominant cultural scripts that have influenced teacher identity over time.

Representative readings

Practice Makes Practice: A Critical Study of Learning to Teach by Deborah P. Britzman
Woman’s “True” Profession: Voices from the History of Teaching by Nancy Hoffman
Studying Teachers’ Lives edited by Ivor F. Goodson
American Teachers: Histories of a Profession at Work edited by Donald Warren
Teaching Selves: Identity, Pedagogy, and Teacher Education by Jane Danielewicz
Cultivating Humanity: A Classical Defense of Reform in Liberal Education by Martha C. Nussbaum
Disturbing Practice: Reading Teacher Education as Text by Avner Segall

Course expectations

Reading, response, and class discussion
Class presentation on a selected text, theme or issue
Ethnography or auto-ethnography of a teacher
Final seminar paper or pedagogical project

For more information e-mail Janet Alsup at jalsup@sla.purdue.edu