EDUCATION STUDIES

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EDUCATION STUDIES MULTIDISCIPLINARY ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Education Studies is a multidisciplinary academic program in Yale College that provides a structure for students interested in educational institutions, policy, teaching, and learning. The program promotes a multidisciplinary understanding of the role of education historically, socially, politically, and economically, and it offers courses in two concentration areas: 1) Social Context and Policy and 2) Individuals and Society.

Any Yale College student interested in education studies may take the introductory survey course, EDST 110, Foundations in Education Studies. This lecture course explores the historical, social, philosophical, and theoretical underpinnings of the field and helps students to understand the critical role of education in society through research, policy, and practice.

In the fall of the sophomore year, students who have successfully completed or are currently enrolled in EDST 110 may apply to become a Yale Education Studies Scholar alongside their major course of study. Selected students join a cohort of 25 undergraduate peers who study education together over two-and-a-half years through course work, weekly dinners, and other events. They are closely guided by faculty, peers, and alumni towards educational opportunities tailored to their individual interests. Education Studies Scholars also gain practical field experience through an appropriate academic-year educational opportunity or summer field experience.

To fulfill the requirements of the program, students must complete six courses including EDST 110, a field experience, three or four electives (depending on senior requirement), and one or two senior capstone courses including EDST 400 alone or in combination with EDST 410 or 490.

The curricular changes to the Education Studies MAP are applicable to the class of 2023 and subsequent classes. The classes of 2021 and 2022 are permitted to opt in to these changes.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAM

Prerequisite  EDST 110
Number of courses  6 courses (incl prereq and senior req)
Distribution of courses  3 or 4 electives (depending on senior req) with at least one elective in each concentration area
Other requirement  Field experience as described on the EDST website
Senior requirement  EDST 400 alone or in combination with EDST 410 or 490

View Courses

Courses

* EDST 065a / HUMS 065a, Education and the Life Worth Living  Matthew Croasmun
Consideration of education and what it has to do with real life—not just any life, but a life worth living. Engagement with three visions of different traditions of imagining the good life and of imagining education: Confucianism, Christianity, and Modernism. Students will be asked to challenge the fundamental question of the good life and to put that question at the heart of their college education. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  HU

* EDST 107b / M&E&B 107b / PHYS 107b, Being Human in STEM  Mark Hochstrasser
A collaboratively-designed, project-oriented course that seeks to examine, understand, and disseminate how diversity of gender, race, religion, sexuality, economic circumstances, etc. shape the STEM experience at Yale and nationally, and that seeks to formulate and implement solutions to issues that are identified. Study of relevant peer-reviewed literature and popular-press articles. Implementation of a questionnaire and interviews of STEM participants at Yale. Creation of role-play scenarios for provoking discussions and raising awareness. Design and implementation of group interventions.  SO

EDST 110a / SOCY 112a, Foundations in Education Studies  Mira Debs
Introduction to key issues and debates in the U.S. public education system. Focus on the nexus of education practice, policy, and research. Social, scientific, economic, and political forces that shape approaches to schooling and education reform. Theoretical and practical perspectives from practitioners, policymakers, and scholars.  SO

* EDST 125a / CHLD 125a / PSYC 125a, Child Development  Ann Close and Carla Horwitz
The reading of selected material with supervised participant-observer experience in infant programs, a day-care and kindergarten center, or a family day-care program. Regularly scheduled seminar discussions emphasize both theory and practice. An assumption of the course is that it is not possible to understand children—their behavior and development—without understanding their parents and the relationship between child and parents. The focus is on infancy as well as early childhood. Enrollment limited to juniors and seniors.  WR, SO

* EDST 127a / CHLD 127a / PSYC 127a, Theory and Practice of Early Childhood Education  Carla Horwitz
Development of curricula and responsive educational environments for young children—in light of current research and child development theory. The course focuses on critical analysis of programs for young children and the ways in which political context
contributes to the practice of education. Regularly scheduled seminar discussions emphasize both theory and practice. Supervised participant-observer experience in an early childhood classroom. Components of the course include behavior and development, planning, assessment and standards, culture, teacher preparation, and working with families. Priority given to seniors, juniors and Ed Studies students. WR, SO, RP

* EDST 128b / CHLD 128b / PSYC 128b, Language, Literacy, and Play  Ann Close and Carla Horwitz
The complicated role of play in the development of language and literacy skills among preschool-aged children. Topics include social-emotional, cross-cultural, cognitive, and communicative aspects of play.  WR, SO, RP

EDST 130a / AFAM 125a / AMST 125a / HIST 136a, The Long Civil Rights Movement  Crystal Feimster
Political, social, and artistic aspects of the U.S. civil rights movement from the 1920s through the 1980s explored in the context of other organized efforts for social change. Focus on relations between the African American freedom movement and debates about gender, labor, sexuality, and foreign policy. Changing representations of social movements in twentieth-century American culture; the politics of historical analysis.  HU

EDST 135b / PHIL 130b, Philosophy of Education  Jason Stanley
An introduction to the philosophy of education. In this course, we read classical texts about the nature and purpose of education, focusing ultimately on the question of the normative shape and form of education in liberal democracy. What is the difference between education and indoctrination? What is the proper relation, in a liberal democracy, between civic education and vocational education? What shape or form should education take, if it is to achieve its goals? How, for example, is the liberal ideal of equality best realized in the form and structure of an educational system? Authors include Plato, Rousseau, Du Bois, Washington, Stanton, Dewey, Cooper, Woodson, and Freire.  HU

EDST 140a / PSYC 140a, Developmental Psychology  Frank Keil
An introduction to research and theory on the development of perception, action, emotion, personality, language, and cognition from a cognitive science perspective. Focus on birth to adolescence in humans and other species. Prerequisite: PSYC 110.  SO

EDST 144a / ER&M 211a / EVST 144a / SOCY 144a, Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration  Grace Kao
Exploration of sociological studies and theoretical and empirical analyses of race, ethnicity, and immigration, with focus on race relations and racial and ethnic differences in outcomes in contemporary U.S. society (post-1960s). Study of the patterns of educational and labor market outcomes, incarceration, and family formation of whites, blacks (African Americans), Hispanics, and Asian Americans in the United States, as well as immigration patterns and how they affect race and ethnic relations.  SO

EDST 160b / PSYC 150b, Social Psychology  Maria Gendron
Theories, methodology, and applications of social psychology. Core topics include the self, social cognition/social perception, attitudes and persuasion, group processes, conformity, human conflict and aggression, prejudice, prosocial behavior, and emotion.  SO

* EDST 162b / SOCY 162b, Methods in Quantitative Sociology  Staff
Introduction to methods in quantitative sociological research. Topics include: data description; graphical approaches; elementary probability theory; bivariate and multivariate linear regression; regression diagnostics. Students use Stata for hands-on data analysis.  QR, SO

* EDST 191b / CHLD 126b, Clinical Child Development and Assessment of Young Children  Ann Close
Exposure to both conceptual material and clinical observations on the complexity of assessing young children and their families. Prerequisites: CHLD 125 or CHLD 128.  SO ½ Course cr

* EDST 209a / AFAM 239a / AMST 461a / ER&M 292a / WGSS 202a, Identity, Diversity, and Policy in U.S. Education  Andrew Dowe and Craig Canfield
Introduction to critical theory (feminism, queer theory, critical race theory, disability studies, trans studies, indigenous studies) as a fundamental tool for understanding and critiquing identity, diversity, and policy in U.S. education. Exploration of identity politics and theory, as they figure in education policy. Methods for applying theory and interventions to interrogate issues in education. Application of theory and interventions to policy creation and reform.  WR, HU

* EDST 210a, Theory and Practice in American Education  Staff
An examination of the roles played by primary, secondary, and higher education in American society. The idealized purposes, nature, and value of education compared to actual practice. The goals of education at all levels; the degree to which such goals are being achieved. Vocational vs. liberal education; the obligations and limits of formal education in helping students overcome social and economic inequities. Preference to Education Studies Scholars and to students who have completed EDST 110.  WR, SO

* EDST 223b / PLSC 223b, Learning Democracy: The Theory and Practice of Civic Education  Amir Fairdosi
This is a seminar on the theory and practice of civic education. We begin by investigating philosophies of civic education, asking such questions as: What is civic education and what is its purpose? What knowledge, skills, and values promote human flourishing and the cultivation of a democratic society? What role can and should schools play in this cultivation? In the next part of the course we focus on civic education in practice, exploring various approaches to teaching civics and the empirical evidence in support of each method’s effectiveness. We also discuss variations in access to civic education opportunities across socioeconomic, demographic, and national contexts, and how societies might deal with these disparities.  SO
EDST 225b, Child Care, Society, and Public Policy  Janna Wagner and Jessica Sager
Exploration of societal decisions about where children under the age of five spend their days. Topics include where young children belong; how to regulate, pay for, and support child care arrangements; consideration of gender, race, and family finances; and the profound impact of these decisions on the well-being of children, families, and the economy. Assignments draw heavily on student insights and reflections. Preference in enrollment will go to students who have taken EDST 110, with Education Studies Scholars receiving priority.  SO

EDST 230b, American Education and the Law  William Garfinkel
Interactions between American primary-school education and the American legal system, with a focus on historical and contemporary case law. The relationship between schooling and the state; constitutional, statutory, and regulatory law governing the rights and responsibilities of educators, students, and parents; equal educational opportunity. Recommended preparation: EDST 110. Preference to Education Studies Scholars.  SO

EDST 232b, Education and the Culture Wars  Talya Zemach-Bersin
Examination of the historical development and politics of the “culture wars” with a focus on how battles over the “soul of America” have focused on the American education system. Conflict over “American values” issues like abortion, gay marriage, and religion are compounded by legal battles over federal funding and school choice. Study of interdisciplinary readings from law, politics, history, and cultural studies. Preference for enrollment will be given to Education Studies Scholars.

EDST 237a / LING 217a / PSYC 317a, Language and Mind  Maria Pinango
The structure of linguistic knowledge and how it is used during communication. The principles that guide the acquisition of this system by children learning their first language, by children learning language in unusual circumstances (heritage speakers, sign languages) and adults learning a second language, bilingual speakers. The processing of language in real-time. Psychological traits that impact language learning and language use.  SO RP

EDST 238a / PLSC 238a, The Education Beat: Writing on Policy, Learning, and Life  Jane Karr
Exploration of the national conversation around education issues, and how to write smartly about them. Classes delve into top stories of the last few years—diversity and desegregation, school choice and culture wars, and Covid-19. Students learn journalistic values and methods and how to develop marketable ideas. The class examines approaches to nonacademic writing, including opinion and narratives, and then put them into practice. Journalists who cover education are frequent guests.  WR, SO

EDST 240b / SOCY 396b, Cities, Suburbs, and School Choice  Sarah Camiscoli
The changing dynamic between cities and suburbs and the role of individuals and institutions in promoting desegregation or perpetuating segregation since the mid-twentieth century. The government’s role in the expansion of suburbs; desegregating schools; the rise of school choice through magnets and charters; the effects of inner-ring suburban desegregation and of urban gentrification on the landscape of education reform. Recommended preparation: EDST 110. Preference to Education Studies Scholars.  SO

EDST 255a / AFAM 259a / AMST 309a, Education and Empire  Talya Zemach-Bersin
This course offers an introduction to the transnational history of education in relation to the historical development of the U.S. empire both at home and abroad. By bringing together topics often approached separately—immigration, education, race, colonialism, and the history of U.S. empire—we interrogate the ways that education has been mobilized to deploy power: controlling knowledge, categorizing and policing differences, administering unequal paths to citizenship/belonging, forcing assimilation, promoting socio-economic divides, and asserting discipline and control. EDST 110 recommended.  HU

EDST 261b, Colloquium: Readings in Education Studies  Talya Zemach-Bersin
This one-half-credit colloquium, required for all newly admitted YES Scholars, supplements the curriculum by introducing scholars to a range of topics, methods and approaches to education studies, acquainting them with the expertise and contributions of faculty teaching in the YES program and their fellow students, and providing them with opportunities for leadership, reflection, and collaboration. In an effort to foster leadership and a vibrant intellectual community, class readings are shaped in collaboration with student participants. Assignments include brief weekly readings, an ongoing class blog, leading class convenings, and collaborative final projects. Prerequisites: EDST 110 and acceptance into the Education Studies MAP. ½ Course cr

EDST 271b / AFAM 146b / ECON 171b, Urban Inequalities and Educational Inequality  Gerald Jaynes
Analysis of contemporary policy problems related to academic under performance in lower income urban schools and the concomitant achievement gaps among various racial and ethnic groups in United States K-12 education. Historical review of opportunity inequalities and policy solutions proposed to ameliorate differences in achievement and job readiness. Students benefit from practical experience and interdisciplinary methods, including a lab component with time spent in a New Haven high school. Prerequisites: Any course offered by Education Studies, or one course in history or any social science, either: Anthropology, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology. EDST 110 is preferred, although not required.  SO

EDST 282b / PLSC 417b, Comparative International Education  Mira Debs
Around the world, education is one of the central institutions of society, developing the next generation of citizens, workers and individuals. How do countries balance these competing priorities? In which ways do countries converge on policies, or develop novel approaches to education? Through the course, students learn the a) impact of colonialism on contemporary education systems, b) the competing tensions of the demands of citizen and worker and c) how a variety of educational policies are impacted around the world and their impact on diverse populations of students. EDST 110 Foundations in Education Studies recommended.  WR, SO
* EDST 290a, Leadership, Change, and Improvement in Education  Richard Lemons
Analysis of the most significant challenges faced by the United States educational system, drawing upon research from a range of academic disciplines to understand how schools and districts operate and why certain educational challenges persist, sometimes over multiple generations of students. Students will study successful educational improvement efforts to better understand the political and organizational strategies necessary to improve student experiences and outcomes at scale, as well as the leadership practices necessary to successfully implement and sustain such strategies. Preference given to Education Studies Scholars or others who have taken EDST 110. SO

* EDST 312a / HIST 423Ja / HUMS 221a / PLSC 310a, Idolizing Education  Mordechai Levy-Eichel
This course is an iconoclastic introduction to the study of education. Besides examining the purposes and practice of education and learning across a wide variety of times and places, the course examines the study of education today in order to see what can be gained from a skeptical approach to the subject. Particular emphasis is placed on the origins and development of the research university. SO

* EDST 325b / PLSC 325b, What is Education For?  Bryan Garsten and Stephanie Nevin
Should we expect to be transformed by our education? Should education aim to produce certain sorts of workers, or citizens, or human beings? This course explores competing ideas about education’s public and private purposes. The course puts classic texts of political thought into conversation with contemporary literature and debates. Key moments in the history of American education serve as case studies, with special emphasis on Yale’s place in this history. HU, SO

* EDST 350b / CHLD 350b / PSYC 350b, Autism and Related Disorders  Fred Volkmar and James McPartland
Weekly seminar focusing on autism and related disorders of socialization. A series of lectures on topics in etiology, diagnosis and assessment, treatment and advocacy, and social neuroscience methods; topics cover infancy through adulthood. Supervised experience in the form of placement in a school, residence, or treatment setting for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Details about admission to the course are explained at the first course meeting. Prerequisite: an introductory psychology course. SO

* EDST 400a, Advanced Topics in Education Studies  Talya Zemach-Bersin
Preparation for a thesis-equivalent capstone project. Building community among each year’s cohort through reading seminal texts in Education Studies, while laying the foundation for spring capstone projects through discussion of education studies methodologies and practical research design. First course in the yearlong sequence, followed by EDST 410. EDST 110 and two Education Studies electives. Enrollment limited to senior Education Studies Scholars.

* EDST 410b, Senior Colloquium and Project  Mira Debs
Culmination of the Education Studies Undergraduate Scholars program. Students conduct a rigorous project on a topic of their choice in education research, policy, and/or practice. Enrollment limited to senior Education Studies Scholars.

* EDST 490a or b, Senior Essay Independent Study  Staff
Independent research under faculty direction, involving research, policy or practice resulting in a final capstone paper. This course is open to Education Studies Scholars who are completing their capstone, in lieu of taking EDST 400 or EDST 410. To register for this course, students must submit a written plan of study approved by a faculty mentor to the Director of Undergraduate Study no later than the end of registration period in the term in which the course is to be taken. The course meets biweekly (every two weeks), beginning in the first week of the term. Prerequisite: EDST 110.