



# Abraham Baldwin

## AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

*A State College of the University System of Georgia*

TIFTON, GEORGIA

### Course Syllabus

Course Name: Investigating Critical and Contemporary Issues in Education

Course Number: EDUC 2110

Course Description: This course engages students in observations, interactions, and analyses of critical and contemporary education issues. Students will investigate issues influencing the social and political contexts of educational settings in Georgia and the United States. Students will actively examine the teaching profession from multiple vantage points both within and outside the school. Against this backdrop, students will reflect on and interpret the meaning of education and schooling in a diverse culture and examine the moral and ethical responsibilities of teaching in a democracy. Ten hours of field experience in an approved educational setting are required.

Pre-requisites/Co-requisites: ENGL 1101 with a "C" or better; at least fifteen semester hours of academic credit with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA.

Course Learning Outcomes: The students will:

1. Investigate and describe contemporary schools and the interplay of school and society via selected social, historical, political, economic, philosophical, and cultural issues that influence those schools.  
(Assessed by: Tests, Philosophy of Education, Case Studies, Debates, and Discussions)
2. Discover, explore, and describe current issues and trends in schools (e.g., bullying, curriculum mandates, vouchers, privatization, testing and evaluation, federal and state policy, reform initiatives, standards, and changes in curriculum) using disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields and the lenses of analysis, critique, and interpretation.  
(Assessed by: Tests, Debates, Response Entries, Case Studies, and Discussions)
3. Analyze their legal, ethical, and professional responsibilities as future teachers.  
(Assessed by: Tests, Philosophy of Education, Case Studies, and Field Experience Journal)
4. Explore their core values and reflect on how their values influence their beliefs about "good" teaching and schooling in democratic contexts.  
(Assessed by: Tests, Philosophy of Education, Core Values Exercises, Discussions, and Debates)
5. Develop and refine a philosophy of teaching for contemporary schools by exploring who they are as a potential teacher (e.g., examining their own agendas and prejudices as they relate to teaching and learning) and what dispositions they have for teaching diverse students in current Georgia and U.S. school contexts.  
(Assessed by: Philosophy of Education, Field Experience Journal, and Discussions)
6. Analyze the implications, benefits, and challenges concerning the use of technology in contemporary Georgia and U.S. classrooms.  
(Assessed by: Tests, Computer-Based Assignments, Class Discussions, Case Studies, and Debates)

College Policy on Course Attendance:

Courses at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College are provided for the intellectual growth and development of students. The interaction with instructors and other students is an important element of the learning process, and a high correlation exists between class attendance and course grades. Therefore to attain



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maximum success, students should attend all their classes, be on time, and attend all scheduled course activities. Absence from class, for whatever reason, does not excuse a student from full responsibility for class work or assignments missed. Students must accept this responsibility.

Individual instructors will establish attendance policies for each class, will publish the policy in the course syllabus, and keep attendance records. The penalty for absences is at the discretion of the instructor and may include failure of the course. Whenever a student is absent, the student must assume responsibility for making arrangements for any assignments missed due to the absence. A student who stops attending class without officially withdrawing will still receive a grade for the course. A student penalized for excessive absences may appeal through the grade appeal process, as stated in ABAC's college catalog and student handbook.

### INSTITUTIONAL ABSENCE

A student who serves as an official representative of the college is defined as one who:

1. is authorized to use the college name in public relationships outside the institution;
2. regularly interacts with non-college individuals and groups over an extended period of time (at least one semester);
3. represents the college as a part of a group and not as an individual;
4. represents the college under the direct supervision of a college faculty or staff member; and
5. is authorized in writing, in advance, by the President of the college.

Such a student is in no way released from the obligations and responsibilities of all students, but will not be penalized with unexcused absences when absences result from regularly scheduled activities in which he/she represents the college.

Further, it is the responsibility of each student to contact instructors prior to the absence and to make arrangements to make up any work that will be missed, in a manner acceptable to the instructor. Advisors of activities will schedule off-campus activities in a manner that does not unduly disrupt the learning process for a student.

### College Policy on Academic Dishonesty:

#### A. Academic Dishonesty

Academic irregularities include, but are not limited to, giving or receiving of unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any academic assignment; taking or attempting to take, stealing, or otherwise obtaining in an unauthorized manner any material pertaining to the education process; selling, giving, lending, or otherwise furnishing to any person any question and/or answers to any examination known to be scheduled at any subsequent date; fabricating, forging, or falsifying lab or clinical results; plagiarism in any form related to themes, essays, term papers, tests, and other assignments; breaching any confidentiality regarding patient information.

#### B. Disciplinary Procedures

1. If a student admits responsibility in a case of suspected academic dishonesty which does not involve a grade penalty significant enough to alter the student's final grade in the course, the faculty member may handle the case on an informal basis by talking with the student and securing a signed statement from the student admitting responsibility and acknowledging the penalty to be imposed, if any. In all cases of suspected academic dishonesty in which the student does not admit responsibility or in which the grade penalty would alter the student's final grade in the course, the faculty member will contact the Office of the



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Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will notify the student in writing of the report and will appoint a neutral person from among the faculty or staff to meet with the faculty member who reported the matter and the student(s) believed to have engaged in academic dishonesty. The purpose of the meeting, to be scheduled by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, will be to provide a facilitated discussion about what may have occurred. The faculty member who reported the matter, the student(s) believed to have engaged in academic dishonesty, and the facilitator are the only participants in the meeting. Audio nor video recordings of these proceedings will be permitted. Following the discussion, the facilitator will submit a form summarizing results of the proceedings to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

2. The faculty member and student(s) may reach an agreement about the matter and, if dishonesty is involved, may determine the appropriate consequences. If no resolution is agreed upon, the matter will be forwarded to the Dean of Student Life and Housing, who will convene the Student Judiciary Committee to determine the outcome of the allegation.

3. Guidelines for disciplinary procedures as outlined in Section V of the Student Code of Conduct will be applicable in cases involving alleged academic dishonesty. A written copy of the recommendations by the Student Judiciary Committee shall be sent not only to the student but also to the faculty member who made the allegations of academic dishonesty against the student, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and to the President.

4. Prior to any finding of responsibility on the part of the student, the faculty member shall permit the student to complete all required academic work and shall evaluate and grade all work except the assignment(s) involved in the accusation of dishonesty. The faculty member may, however, take any action reasonably necessary to collect and preserve evidence of the alleged violation and to maintain or restore the integrity of exam or laboratory conditions.

5. A student may not withdraw from a course to avoid penalty of plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty.

### C. Appeals Process

Students have the right to appeal a Student Judiciary Committee hearing recommendation in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Requests for appeals must be submitted in writing to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs within five business days of the date of the letter notifying the student of the original decision. Failure to appeal within the allotted time will render the original decision final and conclusive.

2. Written requests for appeals must be specific and detailed as to the nature and substance of the student's complaint and must clearly indicate what action is requested. The written request should specify the grounds for appeal. Judicial recommendations may be appealed on the following grounds:

- A violation of due process
- Prejudicial treatment by the original hearing body
- New evidence has become available which was not available at the time of the hearing.

3. Appeals shall be decided upon the record of the original proceedings, the written appeal submitted by the defendant, and any written briefs submitted by other participants. Cases will not be reheard on appeal.



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4. If the student is dissatisfied with the decision of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the student may request in writing that the President consider the appeal, but such request must be made within five business days of the Vice President's decision or the Vice President's decision will be considered final and conclusive.

5. Within five business days of receiving the appeal, the President will either rule on the appeal or refer the appeal to a special Presidential Panel. The Presidential Panel will review all facts and circumstances connected with the case and within five business days make a report of its findings to the President. After consideration of the Panel's report, the President will within five business days make a decision which shall be final so far as the College is concerned.

6. Should the student be dissatisfied with the President's decision, written application may be made to the Board of Regents for a review of the decision. This application must be submitted within twenty days following the decision of the President. Additional information regarding procedures for appealing to the Board is available in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. The decision of the Board shall be final and binding for all purposes.

If there is a student in this class who has specific needs because of learning disabilities or any other disability, please feel free to contact the instructor.



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### EDUC 2110

#### Investigating Critical and Contemporary Issues in Education

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Monday, Wednesday, and Friday-10-11:30

Tuesday and Thursday-1:45-3:15

Tuesday-9-9:30

Webpage: <http://www.abac.edu/sfandel/>

#### Course Text:

Sadker and Zittleman. *Teachers, Schools and Society, A Brief Introduction to Education, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. McGraw Hill, 2007. With CD/Course Reader.

#### OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Proof of liability insurance (SPAGE)
- Verification of criminal records check (\$3.00)
- 3 Essay Style Scantrons-Form 886-E
- This class also requires that students participate in class discussions via WebCT Vista page.

Note on Background Checks-All students must pass a background check before being placed in the field. Students convicted of felonies/crimes of moral turpitude will only be placed in the field via written consent of the school's principal and by also following proper protocols. Principals and other school and college officials have the right to deny or terminate a student's field experience. Teacher candidates run the risk of not receiving a teaching license from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission at the completion of their degree program if they have been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude.

#### Grading Policy:

It is sound teaching practice to assess students in a number of ways. With this in mind, students will be assessed as follows:

3 Tests	300 points @ 100 points each
Philosophy of Education	80 points
Issues Debates	40 points
Field Experience/Journal	50 points
Participation/General	
Assignments	30 points
TOTAL	500 points

A-500-450 B-449-400 C-399-350 D-349-300 F-Below 300



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### Special Notes about Assignments

Tests-Three tests will be administered during the semester. The third exam will be the final exam, and it is not comprehensive. Tests will be mixed format.

Philosophy of Education and Issues Debates-Further instructions for these assignments, including due dates, will be distributed during the semester.

Participation/General Assignments-This class also requires a lot of student interaction. All students will begin the class with 30 points for participation/assignment grade. In a class discussion/group activity, if a student gives an inadequate answer or is not participating, then 5 points will be deducted. Ten points will be deducted for text messaging (See rules below). My goal is for you to interact with the course material, your classmates, and the instructor.

Students will be given a number of in-class/out of class written assignments. Turning in incomplete/inadequate work will result in up to 5 points being deducted from the initial 30 for each instance. Students will be given **5 bonus participation points** for perfect attendance. Additionally, students may earn points for exemplary work in discussions, written work, and cooperative group activities. Students will not receive credit for an assignment if they were inexcusably absent from class. You will lose five points for each unexcused absence beyond the first three allowed absences. You will lose 3 points for each unexcused tardy.

Field Experience and Journal-Students will be required to earn at least 10 contact field experience hours. **Failure to complete 10 hours of field experiences=failure in the course.** Before a student can participate in field experiences, a criminal background check and proof of liability insurance must be submitted. A detailed schedule of field experience instructions, dates, times, policies, locations, and posting deadlines will be distributed prior to the beginning of field experiences. **Field experiences are mandatory.**

### Attendance Policy:

This class requires a lot of in-class participation. As such, students will be penalized for missing class. You will be allowed three absences. After the third absence, you will have five points deducted from your participation grade for each unexcused absence. Three points will be deducted from your participation grade for each tardy. You are tardy if you enter class late or leave early. If you are tardy, it is your role to notify me that you are present at the end of class. If you do not notify me, I will mark you absent. Role is taken at the beginning of class. Be on time. I decide if an absence is excused or unexcused. Missing an exam will require a valid written excuse, submitted when the student first returns to class, regardless of the number of absences.

Final determination of what constitutes an excused absence rests with the classroom instructor. I require that you submit a written excuse upon your return. E-mails are not accepted as valid excuses.

Absence from class, for whatever reason, does not excuse a student from full responsibility for class work or assignments missed. Students must accept this responsibility. Students are expected to attend all class meetings scheduled for the course. If a student misses class and an assignment is assigned for the next class, the student will still be held accountable. It is a student's responsibility as an adult to contact the



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instructor to see what was missed.

The final date to withdraw from this course without penalty is March 2. Withdrawal from the course is the responsibility of the STUDENT. No "Withdrawal" or "Withdrawal Failing" marks will be given by this instructor. A student who stops attending class without officially withdrawing from the course is subject to this attendance policy and will receive a grade of "F" for the course. (Refer to the ABAC Catalog for College Attendance Policy.)

Late Work/Missing Work Policy:

If a student feels the need to turn in late work, he or she may do so for a penalty. All late work will incur a 10 percent point penalty per day late. However, college students are required to have sound time management skills, and the instructor discourages late work. However, missing an exam will require a valid written excuse, submitted when the student first returns to class, regardless of the number of absences. If a student knows that he/she is going to miss class, then he/she may take the test early if enough notice is given to the instructor. The student has 48 hours to make up the exam and/or at the discretion of the instructor. The make-up exam might be in essay/short answer format. It is at the instructor's discretion whether to allow a student to make up a test.

One further note-Your assignment is due on the due date regardless of your presence. If you do not turn in your work, you will incur the late penalty.

**Work is due at the beginning of class. Computer failure, printer failure, flash drive issues, and lack of empty computers at the computer lab are not valid excuses.**

*THE RULES for EDUC 2110:*

1. Complete field experience hours as agreed upon with the site-based teacher(s) and participating organization. During field experiences, represent yourself and ABAC in positive ways.

**Rationale: Teachers are busy and plan you into their schedule. Failing to follow policies will give you a negative name within the school. You do not want potential employers to remember your lack of following instructions and lack of professionalism.**

2. Come to class on time.

**Rationale: There is no tolerance in the school systems for irresponsible teachers. Latecomers in this class are a distraction to your instructor and others. Also, it is disrespectful.**

3. Do not bring phones, I-pods or other electronic devices to class.

**Rationale: This is rude and distracting to your classmates and instructor. You are presenting the picture that you do not care about your education. You will be warned on the first instance, and you will lose ten points. After this, steps will be taken to have you removed from class.**

4. Please be respectful of others. Do NOT talk while others are talking.

**Rationale: Again, this is rude and immature behavior. This behavior is not appropriate for future teachers. You are distracting your classmates and your instructor.**

5. Actively participate in class. Do not sleep or do homework for other classes.

**Rationale: This class requires a lot of discussion and group participation. You will benefit more from this class if you are fully attentive.**

6. Bring all books, notebooks, and required materials everyday.

**Rationale: You must always be prepared because this is the essence of being a teacher. You will participate in different class activities that require your materials.**



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7. *Do not bring food to class.*

***Rationale: Food is distracting to classmates, and it is messy. ABAC does not allow food in the classroom.***

**Failure to fall the rules will result in penalties to your grade. You will also receive a warning. After this warning, proper steps will be taken to have you removed from this class.**

A note about professionalism.....

You will be representing yourself, as well as ABAC, in the area schools. You will be viewed by the children as a teacher. As such, you should begin to think about yourself as a professional. Your actions in/outside of class, in/outside of the school system, and in/outside of public can harm or help you. As a teacher, you will be scrutinized. Think before you act. Think before you speak.

Please fill out the following and bring to next class.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the classroom rules and policies. I agree to follow the policies.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date