

Fairhaven 301: Transfer Seminar: Methods of Interdisciplinary Study

Syllabus: Winter 2003

Dr. Larry Estrada

Course Objectives

This course prepares students for Fairhaven's special educational approach and helps students to envision and assume responsibility for organizing their own education and develop those attitudes, skills and resources valuable for self-guided and interdisciplinary studies. The seminar will emphasize writing, reading and discussion skills as well as a historical understanding of WWU and Fairhaven's genesis.

Course Focus

The focus of this section will be to gain an understanding and appreciation of the evolution of formal education in America and how it has influenced us as a society and as individuals. Special attention will be paid to the history and development of higher education and how education has directly affected various population groups within the United States. We will examine questions such as: How does Fairhaven fit into the overall context of American higher education? Does higher education function as an elite or democratic mechanism? Does education function as a filter for social stratification and or cultural imperialism? Within this rubric we will focus on issues of "critical race theory", class, and gender and how these factors have traditionally intersected with the formation of the academy, its curricula and its intended mission within American Society. Emphasis will be placed on how students can function as social change agents both on and off campus through learning and research.

Texts:

Rereading America, 4th Ed. Cultural Contexts for Critical Thinking and Writing, Gary Colombo, Robert Cullen and Bonnie Lisle eds., Bedford Books, (1998). required

Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom , Bell Hooks, New York, N.Y., Routledge Press, (1994), required

The Big Test: The Secret History of the American Meritocracy, Nicholas Lemann, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000. required

Of Borders and Dreams, Christina Liska Carger, Teacher's College, Columbia University, 1996. required

American Higher Education: A History, Christopher Lucas, New York, St. Martin's Griffin Press, 1994. recommended

Excerpts and Articles from the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as well as other news sources.

Credit/Evaluation:

1. Regular and prompt attendance, exceptions for illness and emergency only
2. Class begins promptly at 10:00 A.M.--TR
3. Full and informed participation in discussions and class activities
4. Timely completion of all written and oral assignments inclusive of the following:

A. **Self-Portrait:** a non-written presentation expressive of some aspects of your identity as relevant to your educational pursuits and aspirations. Artwork, song, poetry, mime, performance art?

B. 2 Perspective/Reflection papers on themes or concepts contained within the Chronicle of Higher Education.

C. Independent Study Project Proposal: Using the prescribed Fairhaven ISP proposal form, describe a possible study, activity or other effort that moves beyond your known, usual, habitual and planned learning, as well as beyond the normal forms of academic work. Include the name of a possible sponsor and/or supervisor for your project, with whom you have discussed your ideas for study.

D. Group Term Project Process

1. Choose a group of no more than 4-5 individuals who wish to develop a term project concept on some aspect of higher education.
2. Define the Problem or Question--Hand in names of Group members and the title of the concept or problem to be explored.
3. Establish Research Strategies or Approaches (surveys, interviews research, etc.)
4. Delegate individual or group responsibility
5. Develop a Group Presentation Approach.
6. Turn in Term Paper and Deliver Oral Presentation.

Specifics:

One inch margins

No less than a 15-20 page "cohesive" , typewritten double spaced group project paper.

Preparation and Delivery of A 35-40 minute oral presentation inclusive of the entire group.

Dates To Remember

Jan. 9, 2003	Self-Portrait Presentations
Jan. 23, 2003	Turning in of 1st Perspective/Reflection Paper
Jan. 16, 2003	Handing in of Individual Writing Plans
Feb. 4, 2003	Handing in of Group Term Project Outlines
Feb. 6, 2003	Handing in of F.C. Independent Studies Forms
Feb. 18, 2003	Turning in of 2nd Perspective/Reflection Paper
March 13-17, 2003	Group Project Oral Presentations and Submittal of Group Project Papers/Course and Instructor Evaluations
March 17, 2003	Class Potluck

Class Schedule

January

7 Tue.	Introduction to the course and one another: Introductory exercise--Video "School Colors"
9 Thu.	Higher Education--Its purpose and mission, What is the state and relevance of higher education and its connection to individual opportunity? Readings: Lucas, <u>Foreword</u> outside Dr. Estrada's office Colombo et. al., pp. 294-339, 383-393 <u>Self Portrait presentations</u> . Presentations-- Professor Stan Tag (11:45)-- <i>Writing Competencies</i> , Ms. Sue Barret (Sooby) (12:00)-- <i>Do's and Don't's of Fairhaven College</i>
14 Tue.	Discussion, Historical origins and antecedents of the modern university — Questions of Gender and Privilege Readings: Lucas, pp. 1-67 Outside of Dr. Estrada's Office Colombo et. al., pp. 402-440

Presentation by Dr. Pat Fabiano. Director of Drug Prevention and Wellness Services (12:00)
Video

16 Thu. Notions of Equality and Assimilation within the American Psyche: Reflections of American Education and its role as the great equalizer or the great stratifier. Colombo et.al., pp. 534-583, 598-610
Small group break out and discussion.
Presentation by Professor Dan First Scout Rowe (11:45) *The Power of the ISP*.

21 Tue. Tour of Wilson Library and its contents--Research instruments and resources, Professor Jeanne Armstrong
Wilson Library: Discussion of Group Term Project Papers
Class will meet at Wilson Library Main Entrance

23 Thu. The Myth of Education and Empowerment/American Meritocracy in the Making
The formation of I.Q. and Standardized Testing.
Turning in of 1st Perspective/Reflection Paper--Discussion of papers.
Readings: Colombo et.al., pp. 134-190/ Chronicle of Higher Education, Small group break out and discussion.
Presentation by Professor Dana Jack (11:45) *Framing Concentrations*

28 Tue. American Meritocracy contd.
Readings: Leman, pp. 3-80
Presentation by Professor Dan Larner (10:00) *Transition Conferences*

30 Thu. Education as Cultural Imperialism/the Conflict for multiple voices within the Educational Proverb.
Readings: Colombo et. al., pp. 191-232, 253-278
Small Group Breakout and Discussion
Video: *Shattering the Silences*

February

4 Tue. The Case of Hispanic Education: Low Attainment or Historical, Educational Neglect. The case for accommodation, assimilation or maintenance of culture.
Handing in of Group Term Project Outlines.
Readings: Carger, pp. 1-75
Presentation by Professor Midori Takagi, (11:45) *Senior Projects* Video: *The Lemon Grove Incident, Clip from Los Chicanos*

6 Thu. Access to Higher Education/Education as a Function of Social Stratification and Elitism. Hispanics within the University Structure.
Handing in of F.C. Independent Studies Form.
Readings: Carger, pp. 76-150
Small group breakout and discussion

11 Tue. Class Field Trip—The Migrant Educational Regional Office, ESD189, Mt. Vernon, Presentations by Mary Kernel and Jesse Cavazos, *Farm workers and Migrant Education*.

13 Thu. The University in the age of Post modernism and the Culture Wars. Diversity, Affirmative Action and curricular transformation.
Readings: Hooks, pp. 1-110
Small group breakout and discussion
Presentation by Professor Marie Eaton, (10:00) *the Vision and Mission of Fairhaven College*

18 Tue. The implications of race, class and gender within the University structure.
Small group breakout and discussion.
Turning in of 2nd Perspective/Reflection Paper
Readings: Hooks, pp. 111-207
Video: *Skin Deep*

20 Thu. The Native American within the formalized educational structure. Cultural Salvation or Eradication.
Small group breakout and discussion.

Readings: On-line articles—*A Nation At Risk*
Presentation by Professor William Demmert—*Native Americans within Academe*

25 Tue. Class Field Trip—Northwest Indian College
Defining Cultural Integrity within the Academic Setting
Presentations by Dr. Cheryl Crazy Bull, President NWIC and
Mr. David Oreiro, Dean of Student Services, NWIC

27 Thu. Guided Research/Wilson Library in conjunction with Dr. Jeanne Armstrong,
Meet at Entrance of Wilson Library

March

4 Tue. Guided Research/Wilson Library in conjunction with Dr. Jeanne Armstrong,
Meet at Entrance of Wilson Library

6 Thu. Meet in Groups to Develop Final Oral Presentations for Group Term Projects

11 Tue. Each group will meet with Dr. Estrada to address final stages and preparation
for Group Oral Presentations

13 Thu. **Group Term Project Oral Presentations**
Handing in of Group Term Project Papers

17 Mon. 8-10 A.M. **Group Term Project Oral Presentations**
St. Patrick's Day/Potluck—Breakfast