DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED STATISTICS, SOCIAL SCIENCE, AND HUMANITIES
DOCTORAL SEMINAR

HMSS.GE.3011
Course Syllabus – Fall 2017

Professor
Joseph Cimpian
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Email: joseph.cimpian@nyu.edu
Office hours: Th. 3:30 – 5:00 or by appt.

Class Meeting
Tuesdays 4:55 – 6:35 p.m.
25 West 4th Street, Room C-2

Course description
This course will probe the history, development, and dilemmas of educational research in the United States and beyond. Designed as an introductory seminar for new doctoral students in Steinhardt, the course will analyze how—and why—educational research found its primary home in schools of education; how different disciplines have approached the study of education; how educational research has influenced society and public policy, and vice versa; and how the next generation of scholars might alter the research landscape. More than in prior years, the seminar this year will emphasize “cutting edge” or important new directions in education research from the disciplines represented. Students will write weekly critiques of assigned readings as well as a term paper that analyzes the existing research about a given educational subject or problem.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance: Each class meeting is a small-group discussion of weekly readings and will frequently include the authors of the assigned book and/or readings. Therefore it is critical that you attend every class and arrive on time. If you must be absent or late, please let me know beforehand.

2. Weekly readings: This course covers a vast intellectual territory, so it also carries a heavy reading load. I expect you to complete all of the readings for each class.

3. Weekly critiques: Each week, I ask that you submit a SHORT (2-3 pages maximum, double-spaced) critique of the assigned reading. Rather than summarizing the work, the critique should identify AND evaluate the most important claim or claims in the work. Why did the author write it? How does it try to contribute to educational knowledge? Does it succeed? Upload your critique to the NYU Classes course page (under the “Forum” tab, and in the folder for the week) by 12pm on the Monday before the reading is due. Then, read your classmates’ comments and provide comments and questions to them (also in the Forum tab) by Tuesday at 12pm.
4. **Research Proposal:** On December 12, you will submit a Research Proposal that reviews the state of educational research in a subject area of your choice and proposes a new line of research that would improve our knowledge of the topic. The subject area might be an educational institution (e.g., kindergartens; museums); instruction in a given discipline (e.g., the teaching of history or of math); a set of actors in the educational arena (e.g., teachers, parents); or the state of knowledge about a pressing public controversy (e.g., women in the sciences; “social promotion”). The paper should aim not simply to “review” the research in your chosen area, but also to comment about its strengths, deficiencies, and—most of all—possible avenues for improvement. Students will share their research and perspectives in brief classroom presentations near the end of the term.

**Grading**

Your grade for this course will be determined as follows:

- Weekly critiques and comments on others’ critiques (weighted equally): 40%
- Research proposal: 40%
- Class participation: 20%

**Other class information**

1. **NYU Classes:** Some materials for this course will be made available via NYU Classes. Enrollment in the course should automatically give you access to the class site. Check frequently for new materials and announcements.

2. **Absences:** Please see me immediately if you have any conflicts with scheduled assignments and/or exams, or if you anticipate being absent due to religious observances.

3. **Class etiquette:** Please make an effort to be on time (I will do the same) and please turn off your cell phone and other digital distractions while in class.

4. **Academic integrity:** NYU Steinhardt policies on academic integrity will be strictly enforced in this class. You can read the school’s official statement on academic integrity ([http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/policies/academic_integrity](http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/policies/academic_integrity)). All submitted work must be that of the individual student.

5. **Withdrawal:** If you wish to withdraw from the course, please do so formally with the University Registrar. If you withdraw without authorization, you are at risk for receiving a failing grade for the course. *September 19 is the last day for graduate and undergraduate students to withdraw without receiving a “W” on their transcripts.*

6. **Accommodations:** Any student requiring an accommodation due to a chronic psychological, visual, mobility and/or learning disability, or who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing, should register with and consult with the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980, 726 Broadway, 2nd floor (www.nyu.edu/csd). Of course, I am happy to provide any and all accommodations recommended by the Moses Center.
# COURSE OUTLINE: ASH DOCTORAL SEMINAR

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READING LIST

September 5: Course Introduction

September 12: Data science


September 19: Sociology/International Education

Readings selected by Sebastian Cherng.

September 26: Economics


October 3: History


October 10: Applied Statistics


October 17: TBA

October 24: Student progress reports on final paper

October 31: TBA

November 7: Psychology

November 14: Sociology


**November 21: Applied Statistics**

**November 28: Psychology**


**December 5: Presentations**

**December 12: Research proposal due**