EDST110F Writing about Teaching: An Exploration of American Educational Ideals through Writing and Film
This seminar explores conceptions of teaching and learning through examination of fictional, ethnographic, and documentary accounts of teachers and their work. We will examine the portrayal of teaching in literature, creative nonfiction, journalism, and scholarly field research, as well as in film. What do these forms of representation tell us about cultural perceptions of schooling, teaching, and learning in the 20th and 21st century? What can we learn from close analysis of the ways in which authors use words and images to portray teachers and students? Participants in this seminar will have the opportunity to reflect upon their own perceptions of teaching and learning, to ground those perceptions in a philosophy of education, and to explore the ways in which writing well about teaching, from many disciplinary perspectives, can impact the profession and our understanding of the enterprise of teaching and learning. Students will practice a variety of modes of writing (critical and analytical essays; personal essays; creative writing; brief ethnography and Lightfoot's social science 'portraiture' method) and analysis of both writing and film, as well as visual thinking strategies and techniques for observing and documenting cultures of learning.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-EDST
Prereq: None
EDST114F Why You Can't Write (FYS)
Institutions of higher education have required first-year students to take writing courses for well over a century. In doing so, they have made it clear that educational and professional success are deeply tied to writing skills. But why is this? This class asks what it means to teach students how to write by probing seemingly stable concepts and practices like language and communication. We will discuss the history of writing studies in higher education before taking up debates over literacy, language standardization, education as imperialism and colonialism, theories of writing instruction, assignment design, and assessment practices. In addition to introducing students to the field of composition, rhetoric, and writing studies, so, too, will this course center the practice of writing. As such, students can expect to write, revise, and comment on classmates' writing regularly. Assignments will include a personal literacy narrative, response papers, weekly journals, and creative projects like assignment and rubric design.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-WRCT
Identical With: WRCT114F
Prereq: None
EDST1140L Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
This course explores theories and teaching methods related to learning English as a second language (ESL). Students will critically examine current and past 'best practices' for teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) and the seminal theories they are based on. In addition, we will discuss the various needs of English language learners, including both children and adults, and students coming from a variety of social and cultural backgrounds. Students will be asked to apply what they've learned by creating their own lesson plans and activities, critiquing ESL textbooks, and giving teaching demonstrations. If you choose to work with a student (or tutor in an organization), you may be able to use this class to fulfill a Category 5 requirement in Education Studies.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-WRCT
Identical With: WRCT140L, ENGL143L
Prereq: None
EDST202 Pedagogy for Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Tutors
This course offers an introduction to pedagogical techniques and theories for teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). The class is ideal for students considering a career in K-12 education, as the number of students whose first language is not English is rising in the U.S. every year. Students enrolled in this course will gain practical experience by committing to volunteering at Middletown public schools while taking this course and are encouraged to continue their service afterward. There is a volunteering commitment of 2 hours/week minimum during the semester.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-WRCT
Identical With: WRCT202
Prereq: None
EDST205 English Language Learners and US Language Policy
This course explores how explicit and implicit language policies in institutions of power affect businesses, schools, and the legal system. More specifically, the course investigates how language choices, translations, and the policies regarding both affect ESL programs in K-12 education, bilingual businesses, immigration policies, and the U.S. legal system. We will also discuss the recommendations of scholars for increasing multilingualism in business and education, improving education for English-language learners, and efforts to improve non-native English speakers' ability to navigate the legal system. The course is recommended for non-native speakers of English and anyone considering working with English-language learners such as teachers, tutors, NGO personnel, and legal or business professionals.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-WRCT
Identical With: WRCT205, AMST227
Prereq: None
EDST223 Second Language Acquisition and Teaching
This course introduces students to the field of Second Language Acquisition (SLA) and addresses the following questions: How do humans learn additional languages after they have acquired their first? Why is there such variability observed in the rates and outcomes of second language learning? Is it possible to attain native(-like) linguistic competence in another language? We begin with the theories and applications of SLA, and then examine major pedagogical movements in Second Language Teaching in the U.S. Students will develop the ability to critically assess current methods, materials, and techniques for teaching various language skills and will produce their own pedagogical activities to be used in a classroom setting. Students of French and Spanish may also wish to enroll in RL&L 223L, a 0.5 credit service learning course in which students volunteer in the Middletown Public Schools.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: RL&L223
Prereq: None
EDST223L Second Language Pedagogy - Teaching Romance Languages
This course is intended for students who may be considering a career in education. In this service-learning course, students are required to volunteer a minimum of two hours per week in the Middletown Public Schools, assisting French, Italian, and Spanish teachers in their world language classes. Students
will write weekly journal entries reflecting on their classroom experience, and will learn to evaluate, adapt, and create pedagogical materials. By the end of the semester, they will have created a portfolio of activities that can be used in a foreign language classroom. Students must have taken at least FREN 215, ITAL 221, or SPAN 221 to be eligible for the class. It is recommended that students also be enrolled in an upper-level course in the department of RLL in the same semester.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: ITAL223L
Prereq: None

EDST230 Schools in Society
What role have schools played in the evolution of American Society? What role could/should they play, going forward? This course takes a topical approach to these questions. We will explore the relationship between schools, democracy, and social progress; take a close look at race and racism in America’s schools; learn how schools work in terms of policy, governance, and funding; and critically analyze the effects of many waves of educational ‘reform,’ including the current movement towards school privatization. While the focus is on the American school system, our perspective will be enlarged by comparison between this system and other approaches to education around the globe.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-EDST
Prereq: None

EDST232 Italy at School: Biography of a Nation
Soon after the unification of Italy (1861), the Coppino Law extended primary school to five years, making it free of charge and mandatory for its first three years (1877). Edmondo De Amicis would subsequently depict these reforms in his best-selling novel Cuore (1886), a text that introduced some enduring features of school narratives but also many stereotypes, thus attracting constant criticism and inspiring several parodies of its moralistic underpinnings. Ever since then school narratives have become a key component of Italian culture, creating a genre that has thrived especially in the last three decades, with a number of both fiction and nonfiction books published by teacher-writers who have reflected on their experience.

In this course we will study Italy from the perspective of these texts about school that often originated within school walls themselves. In so doing, we will reconstruct the history of a relatively young country, Italy, through the institution that, like no other, has been given the responsibility of ‘making Italians.’ At the same time we will question the image of Italian society that school narratives have, intentionally or not, contributed to portraying. In addition to reading Lucio Mastronardi’s Il maestro di Vigevano (1962), we will focus on a wide range of materials, including novels, memoirs, poems, popular songs, films, and works of art that, even in the absence of a unanimously acclaimed ‘classic’ of the genre, have shaped the Italian collective imaginary. Materials will be organized around five poles that have been quintessential to the debate on school in Italy across politics and culture: characters (teachers and students, obviously, but also colleagues, classmates, and families), labor and working conditions (including themes such as precarious work, class conflict, labor rights), gender and identity (questioning traditional gender roles and discussing integration of migrants at school), places and geographies (addressing topics from school design to teaching in prisons, as well as center-periphery integration and north-south divide), and actions (both those of teachers and of students, such as obtaining a certification vs. passing a test, disciplining students vs. questioning teachers’ authority, resigning from job vs. cutting classes). The course will be conducted in Italian.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: ITAL232
Prereq: ITAL112

EDST310 Practicum in Education Studies
This seminar is intended to help students develop the skills to learn from experience in educational settings, through rigorous reflection, analysis, scholarly inquiry into educational questions, and action/implementation of new ideas. It is designed for students with previous coursework in education, experience in educational settings, or both. Students will be placed in a variety of educational settings in the community and each student will craft an independent study, with ongoing guidance from the professor and from the group, related to their placement. Class sessions will be seminar-style with students sharing and workshopping their studies and their practice. There will be group readings on aspects of education studies including reflective practice, classroom ethnography/teacher research, and observational techniques, but students will also develop individualized reading lists according to the focus of their independent study. In addition to ongoing written work in the form of analytic journals and critical reading synopses, students will complete an individualized final paper or project integrating their research and experience over the semester, and give a final presentation.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-EDST
Prereq: None

EDST341G Case Studies in Educational Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Entrepreneurship, innovation, and reform are a defining part of the fabric of K-12 education in the US and other places, presenting opportunities and risks. Each week we will be visited by one or more experts who have led or studied innovative or entrepreneurial projects in the education sector. Perspectives and cases to be discussed include the founding of schools and businesses, start-up ventures, social entrepreneurship and nonprofit organizations, educational law and policy, and innovation within public schools and districts. Students will learn from conversations with experts in the field about how to define problems in education, how different people have approached solutions to these problems, and lessons learned. The professor and students will work together to draw connections between the various case studies and to articulate larger principles.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ALLB
Identical With: CSPL341G
Prereq: None

EDST419 Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.

Offering: Host
Grading: Crd/No Crd

EDST465 Education in the Field, Undergraduate

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

EDST466 Education In The Field

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT