Histories of Teachers, Teaching, and Teacher Education

Thursdays 9:30 AM – 12:15 PM
Room: Education 1084
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Who became teachers in the United States, why, what goals and conditions defined their work, and how were they prepared, if at all, for their positions? Answers, some of which have changed over time, suggest a variety of possible links among the histories of teachers, teaching, and teacher education. The seminar will examine the connections and the related questions. Because longstanding conceptual, social, and policy issues have troubled these apparently interrelated, but not integrated, histories, the seminar will also raise and pursue questions about gender, race, ethnicity, and social class as they have pertained to the composition and status of the teaching profession. The seminar will be organized around core readings and individual research projects. For the latter, seminar members will be invited to conduct cross-cultural or cross-national investigations if their interests lie in comparative studies.

Things to do as we begin:
1. Think about possible research topics/questions.
2. Scan the common readings to see which discussions you want to lead.
3. Consider the role of discussion leader. What does the job entail? Should we have individuals or teams play this role?
4. Review your personal and professional expectations for the seminar. Does learning make you defensive or cranky? If not, count yourself lucky, unusual, or perhaps not entirely honest.

Common Readings


Schedule of sessions:


5. February 8: Final discussion of Labaree book. Discussion of relevant sources, print and nonprint, including websites. Discussion of guidelines for written proposals due next week.

6. February 15: Research projects: Preliminary individual reports on selected topics, research methods, and expectations. Due: written proposals (one page).


8. March 1: First discussion of Nash book: The education of women; women in education. Discussion leaders:


10. March 15: Spring break

11. March 22: First discussion of Ogren book: Where most of us learned to be teachers. Discussion leaders:


13. April 5: First discussion of Zimmerman book: The worlds of teachers and teacher education. Discussion leaders:


15. April 19: Project reports. We’ll discuss guidelines in class.


17. April 27: Research papers due. We’ll discuss guidelines in class.