

Instructor: Dr. Ben Littlepage

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DEPARTMENT: Educational Studies, Leadership and Counseling

COURSE PREFIX: PSE **COURSE NUMBER:** 740

CREDIT HOURS: 3

I. TITLE: Contemporary Issues in Postsecondary Education

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITE(S):

The purpose of this course is to investigate contemporary issues impacting higher education. Current trends and innovations are critical themes for educational leaders to explore. Special topics in higher education explored in this course may include funding, policy, access, technology, learning initiatives, and special populations.

Prerequisite(s): None

III. CONTENT OBJECTIVES:

The student will be able to

- A. investigate contemporary issues impacting higher education,
- B. articulate the relevance of trends/innovations on higher education,
- C. examine current advances in technology and learning,
- D. identify emerging needs of special populations, and
- E. explore impact of innovation on access and funding of higher education.

IV. CONTENT OUTLINE:

- A. Integrative education
- B. Impact of distance learning
- C. Advances in technology and learning
- D. Competency based learning
- E. Personalized student learning initiatives
- F. Special populations
- G. Special issues impacting community colleges
- H. Institutional alignment of public engagement and service
- I. Access and funding of higher education

V. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- A. Video lecture and discussions
- B. Engaged online discussion via Canvas
- C. Small group activities and discussions
- D. Problem-based research projects
- E. Reading contemporary articles

VI. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:

Field interviews required

VII. TEXT(S) AND RESOURCES:

Stearns, P. (2016). *Guiding the American university: Contemporary challenges and issues*. New York: Routledge.

VIII. EVALUATION AND GRADING PROCEDURES:

Evaluation and grade will be determined by assignments, tests, and projects based on text, supplementary readings in professional journals, lectures, presentations, group activities, and class discussions. Late assignments will receive a grade deduction of 10% per day late. Due dates can be viewed in the Canvas course shell.

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Total</u>
Discussion Board Posts (10pts x 3)	30 pts
Contemporary Issue Presentations (20pts x 3)	<u>60 pts</u>
Total	90 pts

- A = 90 – 100%
- B = 80 – 89%
- C = 70 – 79%
- D = 60 – 69%
- E = below 60%

Discussion Board Posts: Students will be asked to comment and engage classmates on PSE topics with present day relevancy. All topics will be prompted by the instructor.

Contemporary Issue Presentations: Students will select three contemporary issues impacting postsecondary education; one of the three issues will be aligned with their capstone research project. The presentations will include 1.) an overview (e.g. background over last three years, impetus), 2.) stakeholder(s) position(s), 3.) predictions, and 4.) institutional implications. Classmates will be expected to comment on all shared presentations.