

Critical Debates in Education (EDU 210)

Credit Hour: 3

Teaching Mode: In-Person

Schedule: Monday to Friday (9:00 AM – 10:50 AM)

Instructor: Jasir Shahbaz

Course Description:

Conceptions and practices of schooling in particular and education in general intersect with the overarching sociopolitical and economic imperatives, thereby generating debates wherein different stakeholders participate from their particular vantage points. Untangling the strands of those debates becomes a worthwhile academic and scholarly enterprise so as to make deeper sense of the underlying dynamics for a better understanding of what schooling and education should entail in any given society.

Therefore, the central aim of this course, which is designed as a seminar, is to initiate the participants to selected debates in education within K-12 school settings. The debates would be informed by available evidence as much as by international perspectives on a range of thematic areas including, but not limited to, aims of education, governance, technology, quality, teacher preparation and evaluation, and testing. Given the nature of the Seminar, no specific source will be used as a primary text. Instead, discussions will be structured around theoretical and empirical literature from a range of sources and contexts to have a fuller view of the texture and tenor of the debates.

By the time participants have completed this Seminar, it is expected that they are able to,

- a) Effectively partake in the current debates in education,
- b) Evaluate the existing scholarly positions in selected aspects of education, and,
- c) Form opinion, rooted in research evidence, around critical debates in education.

The seminar will be structured as brief lectures, discussions in small to large groups, and presentations. Assessment will be based on class participation, response papers, critical essays, and reviews of literature