

## **COURSE TITLE: Re-envisioning Education**

**OBJECTIVES** This course provides opportunities for educators to review and reflect upon their current teaching or administrative practices and to envision new and coherent alternatives. The course's pedagogy is aimed at developing an inquiry based, self-generative, constructivist ethos, in a contemplative setting of mutual respect, self-understanding and shared learning. Topics include: (1) the aims and scope of education; (2) education for transformation; (3) communication strategies; (4) cooperative learning communities; and (5) holistic education.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The methodology of the course is based on inquiry and dialogue, action research models and project based learning. The course will be conducted using lectures, group dialogues, field activities, guest speakers and applied learning projects. Participants are provided with hands-on experiences to design and develop alternative learning environments.

## **WHO IS THE INTENDED AUDIENCE?**

Educators and those interested in alternative, progressive, and holistic education and the educational philosophy of J. Krishnamurti.

## **REQUIRED TEXT**

- 1) Education and the Significance of Life. Krishnamurti, J. (1953). San Francisco, CA: Harper.
- 2) The Whole Movement of Life is Learning (Letters to the Schools). Krishnamurti, J. (2006). Brockwood, UK: KFT.
- 3) What does it mean to be well-educated? Kohn, A. (2004). Boston, MA: Beacon Press.
- 4) The Culture of Education. Bruner, J. (1996). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- 5) Excellence as a guide to educational conversation. Noddings, N. (1993). Columbia, NY: Teachers College Record.

*Note: The instructor provides all texts and photocopied material.*

## **EVALUATION OF STUDENT PARTICIPATION/STANDARDS FOR GRADING**

- Class participation and ongoing projects
- Design and develop alternative learning environments

## **TOPICAL OUTLINE**

(1) The aims and scope of education: Exploring the questions: Why schools? Uncovering the core purposes of learning and teaching What works and doesn't work in schools? Designing effective learning environments

(2) Education for transformation: Examining notions of student and teacher attention and the effects on learning Inquiring into education for the awakening of "intelligence" and growing in "goodness" Considering ethical issues and diverse responsibilities of the teacher Understanding knowledge, thought/thinking, reflective awareness (meta-cognition)

(3) Communication strategies: Learning tools for dialogue, "listening" and meaning-making Building tools for self reflection and questioning assumptions Working beyond known information protocols

(4) Cooperative learning communities: Working together: parents, teachers, administrators and students as co-creators of schools Exploring common ground and reconciling stake holders

(5) Holistic education: Educating the "whole child" Developing comprehensive problem-based learning projects within existing structures Integrating schools with local and global communities Relating with a systemic outlook as a global community, including the individual, nature, and society

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course explores the philosophy, aims, scope and culture of education and schooling and the current challenges to educators and students. Participants discuss the implications of technology and economics on the direction and future of education and the integration of a global perspective into the education of the individual. Dialogue, as a meaning-making activity, is used to provide methodological tools for reflective enquiry. Both the course content and its methodology develop shared understandings about attention, learning, goodness, transformation and intelligence, equipping each stake holder with tools and experience to develop a cooperative learning community. A theme throughout the course is the notion of learning as a self-reflective process that includes an exploration of the nature of mind and consciousness.

Topics include:

- The aims and scope of education
- Education for transformation
- Communication strategies
- Cooperative learning communities
- Holistic education

**COURSE COORDINATOR**

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**CLASS DATES AND TIMES**

Orientation and Introduction: Sunday July 26th (4:00-6:00pm). Monday through Friday, 5 sessions, daily, 9:00-10:30am, 11:00-12:30pm, 1:30-3:00pm, 4:00-5:30pm, 7:30-9:00pm. Final presentations and closing: Saturday August 1st (9:00-noon).

**TOTAL CLASSROOM HOURS/UNITS: POST-GRADUATE CREDIT**

Total class time = 42.5 hours = 4 quarter units

**LOCATION OF CLASS**

Oak Grove Educational Center and Retreat, 1098 McAndrew Road, Ojai, CA 93023.