

**Stanford University  
Graduate School of Education**

**Beyond Equity and Schooling, EDUC 299A  
Pre-Fall 2025, 3:15-6 p.m.**

**Instructors:**

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Course Meetings: See meeting schedule below

Office Hours: By appointment

Location: CERAS 101

Section Locations:

1. CERAS 300 (Kevin)
2. CERAS 527 (nallely)
3. CERAS 308 (Brandi)
4. CERAS 302 (Alexandros)

Course Description

As we face profound educational and broader societal crises locally, nationally, and globally, how might we collectively reflect on our inherited assumptions about the relationship between schools, learning, and desirable/possible worlds? As part of this inheritance, notions of (in)equality and (in)equity have often functioned as presumed reference points for societal progress, fairness, and justice. Discussions focused on (in)equity in education are both incredibly important and highly limited. These discussions are incredibly important insofar as they push us to consider how mainstream schools are structured in ways that systematically (re)produce disparity; they are highly limited in that they often center on broadening access to existing institutions rather than seeking to fundamentally transform or dismantle those institutions and the broader societies in which they are situated. This course approaches issues of (in)equity in teacher education by simultaneously cultivating conceptual and pedagogical tools for existing within and beyond current institutions. The argument is that to ethically serve communities, educators must humbly learn to develop accountability to multiple perspectives, interrogate existing sense-making schema, and collaboratively envision and enact possible worlds. Practically, this work involves learning to perceive skills, wisdom, and educational opportunities in contexts that are often framed as problematic, pathological, and endemically deficient. Thus, we will critically engage with notions of

(in)equity to collectively attune to, envision, and enact educational possibilities.

### Essential Course Questions

The course is designed to support you as you engage with questions including the following:

1. How are your personal experiences positioned in relation to wider cultural, political, economic, social, and historical power structures? How does this shape your lenses for the purpose of schooling?
2. What kinds of “problems” are educators in the United States going to run into--and reproduce-- when teaching in U.S. schools?
3. How are we conditioned to perceive students? What are the alternatives? (How *might* we perceive them? How *might* we be in community with them?)
4. What should school be and what are some strategies for enacting this vision in our own classrooms?
5. What does it mean to be a transformative force in schools and beyond?
6. What are your current justice projects, dreams, and commitments? How have they shifted over time (since: this summer, end of college, end of high school, etc.)? How do you sustain these efforts? How have shifting social and political conditions affected these commitments? What have been helpful ways for you to practice an “ethic of incommensurability” in relation to the justice projects held by peers and colleagues?

### Evaluation

We expect you to receive an A in this class. This requires full participation and completion of all activities. A note about reading and participation:

This class depends on you preparing for text-based discussions in advance. It is essential for you to come to class prepared to share your thoughts on the texts for each day. Recognizing that this is a particularly busy year for all of you, we have limited the texts to two-three articles or chapters per class. Further, all other assignments will be mainly completed in class with minimal prep work done prior to coming to class to prioritize engaging with the texts in your out of class time. Finally, we recognize that these texts are challenging--both in form and content--and may warrant multiple readings.

### Accessibility & Respect for Diversity

**Students with Documented Disabilities:** Students who may need academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an accommodation letter for faculty. Unless the student has a temporary disability, accommodation letters are issued for the entire academic year. Students should contact the OAE as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk (phone: 723-1066, URL: <https://oae.stanford.edu/>). We are also committed to working with students to address accessibility concerns that do not fit into the category of “documented disabilities”; please contact us as soon as

possible to address any such concerns should they arise.

Additionally, we understand that the legal names and gender designations on the class roster with which the University has provided us might not correspond to the name and gender pronouns you use. We are happy to use your chosen name and pronouns and we will be sure to provide space for you to share these preferences in our initial meetings. Please also let us know if any of this changes at any point during the course so that we can work together to share this information in a way that is safe and comfortable for you.

### Course Schedule

*Readings have been uploaded to the Canvas site for this course; students are expected to come to class having reviewed all of the required readings assigned for a given day. We have taken into account the profound demands on your time in selecting these readings in hopes that you will be able to meaningfully engage with each reading prior to class.*

\*Denotes texts for which audio versions are available on YouTube and/or other platforms.

Day 1 (Monday, 8/4): Beyond Frameworks

Question: What worlds are possible?

Required Texts:

Baldwin, James. 1963. "A Talk to Teachers," in *James Baldwin: Collected Essays*, New York, Library of America (pp. 678-686).

[Declaration of Independence](#)

[Combahee River Collective Statement](#)

[I Wor Kuen 12 Point Program and Platform](#)

Day 2 (Tuesday, 8/5): Beyond Equity

Question: What are some comparatively normative and radical visions of equity in education and what is your role in realizing these visions? Who is served by equity discourse? How is it manufactured or made?

Required texts:

Tuck, Eve, and Yang, K. Wayne. 2018 "Introduction: Born Under the Rising Sign of Social Justice," In *Toward What Justice?: Describing Diverse Dreams of Justice in Education*, edited by Eve Tuck and K. Wayne Yang. New York: Routledge (pp. 1-17).

[The Daily. 2022. One Elite High School's Struggle Over Admissions.](#)

Day 3 (Thursday, 8/7): Beyond Deficits, Binaries, and Labels

Question: How are particular populations and communities systematically presumed to be educationally deficient, in what ways do normative approaches to schooling reproduce these presumed deficiencies, and what alternative educational approaches are possible within these contexts?

Required texts:

Keenan, Harper. 2017. "Unscripting Curriculum: Toward a Critical Trans Pedagogy." *Harvard Educational Review*, 87(4), pp. 538-556.

Flores, Nelson. 2015. [What if we talked about monolingual White children the way we talk about low-income children of color?](#)

Ladson Billings, Gloria. 2006. "From the achievement Gap to the Education Debt: Understanding achievement in U.S. Schools." *Educational Researcher*, 35(7), pp. 3-12.

Day 4 (Monday, 8/11): Beyond Inclusion

Question: How can we strategically demand access and resources without reproducing normative institutions on their own terms?

Required texts:

\*[The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas, Ursula K. LeGuin](#)

\*[The Ones Who Stay and Fight, N.K. Jemisin](#)

\*[New Books Now Podcast in Disability Studies. 2023. Crip Negativity with J. Logan Smilges](#)

\*[American Arithmetic, Natalie Diaz](#)

Day 5 (Tuesday, 8/12) Beyond Discipline

Question: How are approaches to justice, discipline, and surveillance enacted in classrooms? How are the histories of discipline intertwined with socio political aspects of schooling and identity? What does a liberatory approach to schooling structure look like?

Required texts:

Class-based text selection will happen during Week 1.

Day 6 (Thursday 8/14): TA Panel

Question: How are you staying with the trouble?

Required texts:

Gumbs, Alexis Pauline. 2020. "a note," in *Dub: Finding Ceremony*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press (ix-xiii).

Brown, Adrienne Maree. 2017. "Introduction," in *Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds*, AK Press (pp. 1-39).