DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
EDUCATION 27: THE IMPACT OF POVERTY ON EDUCATION

Professor: Michele Tine
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Office: Raven House 211

Class Time: (2A slot) Tuesday & Thursday 2:25-4:15
X-hour: Wednesday 4:35-5:25
Office Hours: Tuesday 8:45-11:45 and by appointment

i. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Rising income inequality is undermining the ability of public K-12 schools to meet a foundational goal: to provide children from impoverished areas the opportunity to succeed. This course focuses on the forces that have translated the growing income gap into a growing education gap. We will examine primary research from various fields that details how poverty affects developing children, families, neighborhoods, and schools in ways that go on to affect educational outcomes. We will also consider how interventions strategically targeted at these contexts can improve the educational success of children growing up in poverty.

ii. COURSE GOALS

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

(1) interpret, explain, and critically analyze interdisciplinary research about how the forces of inequality affect the education and lives of low-income children.

(2) understand the ways in which the multiple levels affected by poverty (i.e., child, family, neighborhood, schools) interact with one another.

(3) consider promising areas for research-based intervention.

(4) propose a project that would help society understand or mitigate the impact poverty has on developing children’s education.

iii. COURSE READINGS

There is no textbook for this class. The majority of the readings are research articles that have been carefully selected because they ask and answer a very specific question. Together, in class, we will build an understanding of how the research articles come together to address larger questions about how poverty affects children, families, neighborhoods, and/or schools in ways that go onto affect educational outcomes. The articles can all be found on the course Canvas site.

We will also read two books to provide voices to the research findings. The books are widely available at book retailers.


iv. ASSESSMENTS

Participation (10%)

Copious research shows participation benefits learning. To encourage participation, you will need to complete the readings before you come to class. You will also need to post at least one comment about each reading on the Canvas discussion board before the start of class each day. Comments can include questions, critiques, links to other topics discussed, and/or suggestions about follow-ups. The quality of your posts, as well as your participation in class, will count towards your participation grade. Please understand that if you must miss a class, it is still your responsibility to complete the readings and post to Canvas before class, as well as borrow notes from a classmate, review the power point slides, and acquire any other materials used.

Simulation Reflections (3% each)

During two class meetings, we will participate in small group simulations to help understand the complex ways the multiple levels affected by poverty interact with one another. Research has shown that simulation activities provide an ideal tool to achieve this goal, as they allow you the opportunity to experience aspects of a phenomenon for yourself and, in turn, reduce prejudice, promote perspective taking, and increase self-reflection. After each simulation, you will be asked to provide a brief (2-page) reflection statement about the experience as well as an assessment of your group members’ participation. Detailed instructions are posted to Canvas.

Simulation 1: The Brain Architecture Game

*The Brain Architecture Game was created through a partnership between The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, the USC Creative Media & Behavioral Health Center, and the Clinical & Translational Science Institute at the University of Pittsburgh, and the FrameWorks Institute. See https://dev.thebrainarchitecturegame.com*

The Brain Architecture Game is a tabletop game experience that builds an understanding of the powerful role experiences have on early brain development—what promotes it, what derails it, and with what consequences for society. The goal is to build a brain that is as tall as possible, which represents functionality, and as sturdy as possible, which represents the ability to withstand stressors. In small groups you will work together, drawing Life Experience cards to gain materials for brain building. Positive experiences earn a pipe cleaner and a straw for support. Negative experiences? Pipe cleaner, but no straw. After the initial period of early childhood brain development, weights must be hung from the structure of the brain when life hands out stressors. Will the foundation withstand these weights, or will it collapse? Afterward, we will discuss the experiences that strengthened or weakened the architecture of the developing brains and unpack how the simulation aligns with what we covered in class about neurocognitive development. Detailed instructions will be provided in class.

Simulation 2: The Game of Social Life

*This simulation activity was designed in part by a 2014 grant from the Teaching about Diversity Fund through the Learning and Teaching Office at Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. See http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/the-game-of-social-life-poverty-simulation/*

The simulation is designed to motivate you to reflect on and discuss concepts of social stratification based on multiple dimensions of poverty. Prior to class, you will 1) be assigned character resources at random and 2) complete a budget exercise to determine the resources that you will have available to them during game play. In class, we will break into small groups for game play. The first part of the board game represents childhood, with the goal of remaining
healthy and accumulating education credits. In the second part of the game, representing adulthood, education credits earn prestige and wealth (or lack of prestige and wealth) in the form of occupational opportunities. Detailed instructions will be provided in class.

**Book Verification Quizzes (2% each)**
During the term, you will read two books. *Hillbilly Elegy* is a memoir written by J.D. Vance about his childhood growing up in poor in rural Appalachia. *A Hope in the Unseen* written by Ron Suskind is about Cedric Jennings, who grew up in an inner-city project on the southeast corner of Washington, DC. There will be a brief multiple-choice quiz on each book. The purpose of the quizzes is to motivate you to read the books. The intention is that if you have read the books, you will easily be able to answer the quiz questions.

**Rural vs Urban Poverty Paper (13%)**
The lives of J.D. Vance and Cedric Jennings as portrayed in *Hillbilly Elegy* and *A Hope in the Unseen* bear striking similarities and differences. In a four-page (double-spaced) paper, you will need to compare and contrast two aspects of their lives and connect each to a topic we cover in class. In your paper you will need to cite at least 2 readings from class and 2 other research articles that you locate on your own. Detailed instructions are available on Canvas.

**Grant Proposal (20%)**
Assume you have the opportunity to compete for a $50,000 grant to conduct a research project that addresses a research-based problem associated with poverty and education. You will write a grant proposal to convince a grant review panel (myself and your classmates) that your project is worthy of funding. Your proposal should be six pages in length (not including the reference list) and should include a(n): abstract, rationale, statement of purpose, methods, timeline, budget justification, and reference list. In addition to the paper, you will also be asked to give the class a (timed) 30-second pitch of your proposal; we will vote on 5 proposals that we, as a class, feel are the most worthy of the $50,000 (based on the pitches). Detailed instructions are available on Canvas.

**Midterm Exam (22%)**
The midterm exam will include a variety of question types including multiple choice, short answer, and short essay. It will cover material from articles, lectures, and in-class discussions, but not material from simulations or books.

**Final Exam (25%)**
The final exam will also include a variety of question types including multiple choice, short answer, and short essay. It will be cumulative.

**v. GRADE BREAKDOWN**

- Participation: 10%
- Simulation Reflection 1: 3%
- Simulation Reflection 2: 3%
- Book Quiz 1: 2%
- Book Quiz 2: 2%
- Rural vs Urban Poverty Paper: 13%
- Grant Proposal: 20% (includes in-class pitch)
- Midterm Exam: 22%
- Final Exam: 25%
vi. POLICIES

Late policy
Any written assignment handed in after the start of the class period on the day it is due will be counted as one day late. Ten percent will be deducted the first day an assignment is late and an additional five percent will be deducted for each additional day that passes. If you cannot be in class on the day an assignment is due, you are responsible for getting me a hard copy before the start of the class period. Email versions will not be accepted. Also, please note that the Canvas discussion board will be closed at the start of class each day. Therefore, you will be unable to post your responses to the readings after the start of any given class. This late policy is a no exceptions policy. I hold firm to it because I believe it is inequitable to do otherwise; extensions benefit only a select group of students, specifically those who to have more extroverted personalities and are comfortable approaching me to ask for an extension.

Classroom Climate
Due to the nature of the topics covered in this course, we will discuss issues that are value-laden and sensitive. It is critical that each member of the class feels comfortable expressing his or her individual viewpoint. Remember that it is our privilege to be exposed to diverse perspectives.

Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities who may need disability-related academic adjustments and services for this course are encouraged to see me as early in the term as possible. Students requiring disability-related academic adjustments and services must consult the Student Accessibility Services office. Once SAS has authorized services, students must show the originally signed SAS Services and Consent Form and/or a letter on SAS letterhead to me. As a first step, if you have questions about whether you qualify to receive academic adjustments and services, you should contact the SAS office. All inquiries and discussions will remain confidential. Contact information for SAS: 205 Collis Student Center, 646-9900, Student.Accessibility.Services@Dartmouth.edu

Academic Honor Principal
I take the Academic Honor Principle seriously. I expect you to familiarize yourself with it and uphold it. It stated clearly at http://www.dartmouth.edu/judicialaffairs/honor/index.html. For this course, you may not receive or provide assistance on any quiz or exam and you may not plagiarize. Plagiarism is the submission or presentation of work, in any form, that is not your own, without acknowledgment of the source. For this course, cite all sources according to the formal APA guidelines. If you have any clarification questions about how the Academic Honor Principal applies to this course, please ask me- and please do so before submitting an assignment. Any violation of the Academic Honor Principal will result in a zero on the assignment and a referral to Judicial Affairs.

Religious Observances
Some of you may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during this academic term. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please meet with me as early in the term as possible to discuss appropriate accommodations.

Mental Health
I recognize that the academic environment at Dartmouth is challenging, that our terms are intensive, and that classes are not the only demanding part of your life. There are a number of resources available to you on campus to support your wellness, including:

Undergraduate deans (http://www.dartmouth.edu/~upperde/)
Counseling and Human Development (http://www.dartmouth.edu/~chd/)
Student Wellness Center (http://www.dartmouth.edu/~healthed/)

I encourage you to use these resources, and come speak with me, to take care of yourself throughout the term.
### vii. Schedule of Topics and Due Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
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<td>Tue March 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Poverty at the Child Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur March 29</td>
<td>Poverty &amp; Neurocognitive Development</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Poverty &amp; Pre-K</td>
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<td>Tue April 3</td>
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<td>Week 2 (x-hour)</td>
<td>SIMULATION: The Brain Architecture Game</td>
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<td>Wed April 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Poverty &amp; K-12 Educational Outcomes</td>
<td>Simulation Reflection 1</td>
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<td>Thur April 5</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Poverty &amp; College Educational Outcomes</td>
<td>Book Verification Quiz 1</td>
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<td>Tue April 10</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Poverty at the Family Level</td>
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<td>Thur April 12</td>
<td>Poverty &amp; Investments in Children’s Learning</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Poverty &amp; Parents: Influences on Education</td>
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<td>Tue April 17</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Poverty at the Neighborhood Level</td>
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<td>Thur April 19</td>
<td>Poverty &amp; Neighborhood: Influences on Education</td>
<td>Book Verification Quiz 2</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Poverty &amp; Local Employment: Influences on Education</td>
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<td>Tues April 24</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>Thur April 26</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Poverty at the School Level</td>
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<td>Tue May 1</td>
<td>Poverty &amp; School Mobility</td>
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<td>Thur May 3</td>
<td>Poverty &amp; Teachers</td>
<td>Rural vs. Urban Poverty</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>SIMULATION: The Game of Social Life</td>
<td>Paper</td>
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<td>Tue May 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Poverty, Crime, &amp; Safe Schools</td>
<td>Simulation Reflection 2</td>
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<td>Thur May 10</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Poverty, Segregation, &amp; Desegregation of Schools</td>
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<td>Tue May 15</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Promising Interventions</td>
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<td>Thur May 17</td>
<td>Child Level Interventions</td>
<td>Grant Proposal</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>School Level Interventions</td>
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<td>Tue May 22</td>
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<td>Week 9 (x-hour)</td>
<td>Grant Proposal Pitch</td>
<td>Grant Proposal Pitch</td>
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<td>Wed May 23</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Family/Neighborhood Level Interventions</td>
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<td>Thur May 24</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Summary, Reflections, &amp; Moving Forward</td>
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<td>Tue May 29</td>
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<td>Finals Week</td>
<td>Final Exam @ 11:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Mon June 4</td>
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viii. DAILY SCHEDULE OF READINGS

**Tuesday March 27 | Introduction to the Course**


**Thursday March 29 | Poverty & Neurocognitive Development**


**Tuesday April 3 | Poverty & Pre-K**


**Wednesday April 4 | Simulation**

In class simulation: *The Brain Architecture Game*

**Thursday April 5 | Poverty & K-12 Educational Outcomes**


REMINDER: SIMULATION REFLECTION 1 DUE TODAY

**Tuesday April 10 | Poverty & College Educational Outcomes**


Dynarski, S. (2015). For the poor, the graduation gap is even wider than the enrollment gap. [Blog post] Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/02/upshot/for-the-poor-the-graduation-gap-is-even-wider-than-the-enrollment-gap.html?_r=0


REMINDER: BOOK VERIFICATION QUIZ 1 GIVEN IN CLASS TODAY

**Thursday April 12 | Poverty & Investments in Children’s Learning**


Tuesday April 17 | Poverty & Parents: Influences on Education


Thursday April 19 | Poverty & Neighborhood: Influences on Education


REMIDNER: BOOK VERIFICATION QUIZ 2 GIVEN IN CLASS TODAY

Tuesday April 24 | Poverty & Local Employment: Influences on Education


Thursday April 26 | Midterm
In class midterm exam
**Tuesday May 1 | Poverty & School Mobility**


**Thursday May 3 | Poverty & Teachers**


REMINDER: RURAL VS. URBAN POVERTY PAPER DUE TODAY

**Tuesday May 8 | Simulation**

In class simulation: *The Game of Social Life*

**Thursday May 10 | Poverty & Safe Schools**


REMINDER: SIMULATION REFLECTION 2 DUE TODAY
**Tuesday May 15 | Poverty, Segregation, & Desegregation of Schools**


**Thursday May 17 | Child Level Interventions: Teachers & Technology**


REMEMBER: GRANT PROPOSAL DUE TODAY

**Tuesday May 22 | School Level Interventions**


**Wednesday May 23 | Grant Proposal Pitches**

In class grant proposal pitches

**Thursday May 24 | Family/Neighborhood Level Interventions**


**Tuesday May 29 | Summary, Reflections, & Moving Forward**


**Monday June 4 | Final**

Final exam @ 11:30 a.m. Location TBA.