



Course Information

Prefix & number	Title
EDST 565	Leadership is a <i>Funny Business</i>
Instructor	Prerequisites or restrictions (if any)
Dr. Elaine Decker	

Focus or Content

This course is based on a broadly hermeneutic – or interpretive – approach to the complex, contrary-filled *funny business* of educational leadership. How can leaders be both thoroughly prepared and gracefully adaptable? Hyers argues that we are “capable of an endless variety of alternative modes of being, believing and doing” and it has been the task of clowns and fools and comic heroes to remind us of our intrinsic freedom and flexibility.” (1981, p.122). In class activities and assignments participants will work to strengthen imagination, welcome alternatives, wonder and wander, look again and askance, keep a humble and hopeful stance, respect the wisdom and courage of others.

Goals, Objectives or Learning Outcomes

Take up design authority Arturo Escobar’s credo that “many possibles are possible”.
Explore the history and universality of the *fool* and investigate trickster stories and parables.
Embrace difference; be curious; participate courageously and joyfully.
Expand learning repertoire to include non-traditional activities such as joking, juggling, art, paper engineering, parkour.
Take both leader and participant roles.
Build community in activity.

Assignments or Assessment Process

Graded assignments:
Self-assessment of participation in class learning activities (30%) and class leadership roles (20%).
Instructor assessment of a two-page paper connecting one of the class activities with concepts from one or more authors from the reading list. (Examples will be developed in class). (20%)
Joint assessment (instructor & participant) of a summative individual or group performance demonstrating understanding and enactment of the ‘intrinsic freedom and flexibility’ of comic heroes. (15%, 15%)

Notes/Other

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