

ECD 791
Post-Structural Theory and Early Childhood Education
Spring, 2007

Joseph Tobin, instructor:

480-235-1248

joseph.tobin@asu.edu

Farmer 302b

Office hours Thursdays, 2:30-4:30 (or make an appointment)

The idea of this course is to apply post-structural theory to topics in early childhood education. Each week we will read a piece of theory, discuss it, and then explore it's implications for education in general, more specifically for early childhood education, and most specifically, for your own dissertation topic. Theories to be covered include various versions of post-structuralism, performance theory, queer theory, and postcolonial theory. The theories covered in this seminar are, not coincidentally, among the ones that have been most central to the work of the "reconceptualizing early childhood education group," of which I am a core member. Many of the critical theory reading assignments are paired with an example of how this theory has been applied to an issue in early childhood education.

Assignments:

Each student will help plan and lead the discussion of one theorist. This will count for 25% of the grade.

Students will turn in (by e-mail) weekly reading notes of no more than 500 words by noon of each Thursday's class. This will count as 25% of the grade.

Students will write a final paper in which they apply one or more theories to their own research.

Class Schedule:

- 1/18 Introduction
Introduction to the course
Structuralism, Post-structuralism, and Early Childhood Education
- 1/25 Freud (Akiko)
- 2/1 Marx (Bob)
- 2/8 Ideology (?)
Louis Althusser: "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses"
- 2/15 Cultural Capital (Yoon Hee)
Pierre Bourdieu : *Distinction* (first 100 pages)
- 2/22 Discourse and Power (Joe V)
Michel Foucault: *Discipline and Punish* (especially the section on the Panopticon)
- 3/1 Resistance Tzu Hui
Michel de Certeau: *The Practice of Everyday Life* (intro and first half of part 1)
- 3/8 Resistance (Angela)
Mikhail Bakhtin: *Rabelais and his World*
Grace & Tobin: "Burps and Butt Jokes: Video Production in the Elementary Classroom"
- 3/15 Spring Break
- 3/22 Postmodernism (Stacy)
Jamison: "Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism" (30 pages)
Tobin: Irony of Self-Expression
- 3/29 Deconstruction/Lacan (Joe V)
- 4/5 Gender/Performance (Andrew)
Judith Butler: Chapters 1, 4, 8 from *Bodies that Matter*
Michael Warner: Michael Warner: Introduction to *Fear of a Queer Planet*
Gail Boldt; "Sexist and Heterosexual Responses to Gender Bending in an Elementary Classroom"
- 4/12 No class (AERA)
- 4/19 Post Colonialism (Silvia)
Homi Bhabha: "Of Mimicry and man: The Ambivalence of Colonial Discourse"
from *Locations of Culture*
Julie Kaomea: "The Curriculum of Aloha?"

4/26 no class

reschedule: Globalization (Mengying)
Stuart Hall and/or Wallerstein