Topics in Brazilian Education
Education in Brazil and Alternatives for the 21st Century
Prof. Paulo Blikstein

General Information

School of Education – EDUC 404X
Fall 2012
Friday, 12:50 – 2:15pm, Wallenberg Hall 124

Course Objective

The objective of this seminar is to provide students from different backgrounds an opportunity to learn about current issues and debates on Brazilian education, and think of new proposals and ideas to innovate Brazilian education in the 21st century, through either government action, non-profit organizations, entrepreneurship, or established businesses. The seminar will cover topics on the history of Brazilian education; an overview of current school reforms at the federal level; educational assessments; education and economic growth; educational equity; teacher labor market; technology and education; innovation in education; market-based approaches, early childhood; and higher education in Brazil.

Course Structure

This course will have weekly readings and discussions on a variety of issues around Brazilian education. In addition to lectures and in-class activities coordinated by the instructor, the course will have several specialist guest speakers from Brazil and the United States, who will deliver presentations both in person or virtually. The classes will be divided into two parts: first, the instructor and/or the guest speakers will provide an overview of the topic assigned for the week; the second part will consist of a discussion between the students and presenters.

Course Requirements

This 1-2 units (Satisfactory/No Credit) seminar will be based on classroom discussions. Students are
expected to participate in the classroom discussion using the assigned readings.

Teaching team

Paulo Blikstein (paulob@stanford.edu)
Assistant Professor of Education and (by courtesy) Computer Science
Director, Transformative Learning Technologies Lab
Executive Director, Lemann Center for Educational Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Brazil
520 Galvez Mall - CERAS 232 - tel. (650) 736-0966
Office hours: by appointment (in CERAS 102 or 232)
Other Lemann Center faculty that are part of the planning and teaching team: Martin Carnoy, Eric Bettinger, and David Planck.

Course Web Site & email lists

Website: http://lemanncenter.stanford.edu/courses (online Sept 22nd)
Email list for course instructors: tbefaculty@lists.stanford.edu
Email list for all course members (students and faculty): tbe-fall2012@lists.stanford.edu

Schedule

Week 1: Brazilian Education and its issues (Sept 28)
- Overview of Brazilian education and its issues
- Speaker: Martin Carnoy
- Literature:

Week 2: History and Social thought on education (Oct 5th)
- Speaker: David Plank
- Literature:
Week 3: History and Social thought on education (Cont.) (Oct 12th)

- Speaker: David Plank
- Literature:

Week 4: Education policies (Oct 19th)

- Universalization of basic education; basic education policies (e.g., FUNDEB); higher education policies (e.g., PROUNI); accountability reforms.
- Speaker: Nigel Brooke
- Literature:

Week 5: Technology and education (Oct 26th)

- Speaker: Paulo Blikstein
- Literature:

Week 6: Educational measurement (Nov 2nd)

- Accountability trends in basic education; educational indicators: Prova Brasil, SAEB, IDEB, PISA.
- Speaker: Ruben Klein
Week 7: Accountability in education (Nov 9th)

- How can Brazil learn from experiences in other countries?
  - Performance-based bonus programs in states; accountability trends in higher education: The ENADE
- Speaker(s): Eric Bettinger
- Literature: TBD

Week 8: Education finance in Brazil (Nov 16th)

- Speaker: Claudio Ferraz (TBD)
- Literature:

Week 9: Thanksgiving Recess (Nov 23rd)

Week 10: Teachers in Brazil (Nov 30th)

- Teacher training; Teachers labor market
- Speaker(s): Paula Louzano
- Literature:

Week 11: Wrap-up (Dec 7th)