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

General Information
School of Education – EDUC 404X
Winter 2013
Tuesday, 09:15 – 10:30am, CERAS 100B

Course Objective
The objective of this seminar is to provide students from different academic backgrounds and nationalities an opportunity to learn about current issues and debates on Brazilian and Latin American education, and think of new proposals and ideas for the 21st century, through either government action, non-profit organizations, entrepreneurship, or established businesses. The seminar will cover topics on the history of Brazilian and Latin American education; an overview of current school reforms at the federal level; educational assessments; education and economic growth; educational equity; teacher labor market; technology and innovation in education; market-based approaches; critical pedagogy and popular education; 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. All lectures and talks are in English. 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:

1) Actively participate in the classroom discussion based on the assigned readings (typically one paper per week).

2) Post an interesting question (online) to the speaker of the week by Monday by 6pm, via Piazza.

3) Write a 2-page summary about one of the talks (students can pick their favorite), and present the summary on the last day of class.

**Teaching team**

Paulo Blikstein (paulob@stanford.edu)

- Assistant Professor of Education and (by courtesy) Computer Science
- Director, Transformative Learning Technologies Lab
- 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)

Lemann Center faculty that are part of the planning and teaching team:

- Martin Carnoy, Eric Bettinger, and David Plank.

Lemann Fellows that help with the course organization:


**Course Web Site & email lists**

Website: [http://lemanncenter.stanford.edu/courses](http://lemanncenter.stanford.edu/courses)

Email list for course instructors: tbfaculty@lists.stanford.edu

Email list for all course members (students and faculty): tbe-winter2013@lists.stanford.edu

**Schedule**

**Week 1: Descomplica: Scaling a 15-year classroom experience in Brazil with an Online EdTech Startup (Jan 8th)**

- Speaker: Marco Fisbhen (Founder and CEO, Descomplica.com.br)
- Literature:
Week 2: Teachers’ policies (Jan 15th)

- Speaker: Barbara Bruns (Lead Education Economist, Latin America and the Caribbean Region of the World Bank)
- Building better teachers: Federal, state, and municipal policies regarding teachers; teachers’ use of time in the classroom.

Week 3: Education finance in Brazil (Jan 22nd)

- Speaker: Claudio Ferraz (Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio))
- Literature:

Week 4: Teachers’ professional development and labor market (Jan 29th)

- Speaker: Paula Louzano (Assistant Professor of Education, University of São Paulo)
- Literature:
Week 5: Education and Equity (Feb 5th)

- Speaker: José Francisco Soares (Professor of Education, Federal University of Minas Gerais)
- Literature:

Week 6: Education and Social Inequality in Brazil (Feb 12th)

- Speaker: Sergei Soares (Chief of Staff to the Presidency of the Institute for Applied Economic Research in Brazil (IPEA))
- Literature:
  - Soares et al. (2009) “Conditional Cash Transfers in Brazil, Chile and Mexico: impacts upon inequality”
  - Velez; Soares; Medeiros (2001) “Reducing Schooling Inequality in Brazil: demographic opportunities and inter-cohort differentials.”

Week 7: Admission to Higher Education in Brazil (Feb 19th)

- Speaker: Dalton Andrade (Full Professor in Informatics and Statistics, Federal University of Santa Catarina)

Week 8: Education and Economic Growth (Feb 26th)

- Speaker: Eric Hanushek (Paul and Jean Hanna Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University)
- Literature:


**Week 9: Early Childhood Education (Mar 5th)**

- Speaker: Ricardo Paes de Barros (Secretary of the Office of Strategic Action from the Secretariat for Strategic Affairs of the Brazilian Presidency of Republic)
- “Brasil Carinhoso” Program (“Affectionate Brazil” Program)
- Literature:

**Week 10: Wrap-up (Mar 12th)**

- Final presentations and summary