UCL SUMMER SCHOOL
WHAT IS EDUCATION?

Key Information

Module code          ISSU0035
Taught during        Session Two: Monday 22 July - Friday 9 August 2019
Module workload      45 teaching hours plus approximately 100 study hours
Module leader        Alison Brady
Department           Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment, Institute of Education
Credit               15 UCL credits, 7.5 ECTS, 4 US
Level                Level 1, first year Undergraduate
Pre-requisites       Standard entry requirements
Assessment           Presentation (30%)
                      Essay (70%)

Module Overview
During the module, students will attend sessions at the UCL Institute of Education (IOE) where a range of experts will present their responses to the question: what is education? These responses are underpinned by the critical consideration of the following questions:

- What is education for, what is its purpose, both here and now and looking to the future?
- What should be its fundamental values and ethics?
- What do we mean by knowledge and learning (including formal and informal learning)?
- What is our concept of education?
- What is our image of the learners, educators, learner contexts, and of community/society?
- Who is responsible for education, and what does it mean to be responsible?*

Students will be encouraged to consider, and share, their own responses to these questions, in relation to their own contexts.

Week One
- Module overview
- Philosophical perspectives on the moral and political aspects of education
- Changing values in education
- What are schools for? A sociological perspective on “powerful knowledge”
Week Two
- The sociology of knowledge and learner identities
- Adult education and social change. A historical perspective
- The role and purpose of assessment
- Education, ethics and imagination

Week Three
- Consolidation of learning from the module
- Preparation for assessment
- Assessment

Module Aims
The Summer School on What is Education? introduces students to what it means to study education at a higher level. It provides students with the opportunity to explore key ideas underpinning education, with some of the world’s leading experts in education.

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Teaching Methods
Interactive lectures and seminars, open class and small group discussions, excursions, group work and private study. Reading lists will be available online via the UCL library site. Students will be directed towards class materials, further support and discussion forums on Moodle.

Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this module, students will:

- Understand and had first-hand experience of what it means to study education at a higher level
- Be familiar with some of the key ideas underpinning education, as well as with some of the stances taken by world leading experts in education
- Have critically considered and reflected upon the nature and purpose of education, particularly in relation to their own contexts
- Have critically considered and reflected upon the impact of a range of contexts on the nature and purpose of education

Please note that this module description is indicative and may be subject to change.
• Have developed their own critical and informed responses to questions concerning the nature and purpose of education

Assessment Methods

• 10-minute presentation (30%)
• 2,000-word essay (70%)

Key Texts