EDUC 178
Advanced Educational Studies: WINTER 2017 TOPIC
Education as a Practice of Freedom
Instructor: Ron Glass

This course will take an in-depth look at the foundational theory of Paulo Freire, and how it has influenced a number of streams of critical theories of schooling, teaching, and of education within theories of democratic deliberation.

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A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY IN-DEPTH THE THEORY OF PAULO FREIRE WITH RON GLASS, A RADICAL PHILOSOPHER OF EDUCATION WHO WORKED CLOSELY WITH FREIRE IN THE EARLY/MID-1980s

Freire’s theory about a “pedagogy of the oppressed” has played a role in decolonial movements throughout Central and South America, Africa, and throughout the world since the early 1960s.

Freire’s conception of “critical consciousness” has influenced movements for social justice in the US since his work first appeared in English, and his comparison of “banking” and “dialogical” education has shaped efforts to humanize school learning and teaching.

What are the roots, main ideas, and limits of his theory? Why has Freire’s conception of “education as a practice of freedom” continued to influence a broad array of movements for justice despite its constraining frames of what it is to be human, and what constitutes liberation from oppression? How applicable is the theory to classroom practices in US public schools? How have low income communities, communities of color, and immigrant communities continued to use Freire’s ideas in their struggles?

Ron Glass is Professor of Philosophy of Education and Director of the UC Center for Collaborative Research for an Equitable California. From the mid-1960s to the late 1980s, Ron was deeply involved in movement building across anti-racism, anti-militarism, anti-capitalism, and anti-patriarchy struggles. In the early/mid- 1980s, Ron hosted Paulo Freire and the renowned democratic educator Myles Horton (Highlander Center) for extended collaborations in his San Francisco-based Adult Education Development Project.

Now a quarter century past joining university faculties (Stanford; UC Berkeley; Arizona State; UCSC since 2005), Ron continues to experiment with “education as a practice of freedom” in collaborations with a wide range of aggrieved communities. His commitment to an ethically and politically transformative praxis has animated Ron’s work throughout his life, as recognized with a “Martin Luther King Living the Dream Award” (2001) from the City of Phoenix Human Relations Commission, and many other awards, including a teaching award at Stanford.