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07C:336
Impact of College on Students
Wednesday; 4-6:30 p.m., N223 LC

Course Requirements:

1. Do the reading. (I really mean it!)
2. Attendance and active participation in the seminar. (Each student will have the chance to coordinate and lead the discussion for one or more class sessions.)
3. Assignment #1: Prepare a brief (5-10 pp.) paper summarizing the main tenets of a theory/model of college student change or development. Your review should include a brief critique of the theory/model. Choose the theory/model of one of the following, or one of your own choosing:

Alexander Astin
Mary Belenby
Arthur Chickering
William E. Cross, Jr.
Marcia Baxter Magolda
Erik Erickson
Carol Gilligan
Douglas Heath
Janet Helms
John Holland
Ruthellen Josselson
Karen Kitchener

Pat King
Jane Loevinger
Lawrence Kohlberg
James Marcia
Myers-Briggs
C. Robert Pace
William Perry
Jean Piaget
James Rest
George Stern
Vincent Tinto
John Weidman

4. Assignment #2 (Option A): Prepare a brief (15 pp.) proposal for a study of the impact of college on students. The proposal should include the following:
 - a) Problem statement/justification
 - b) Thorough literature review
 - c) Detailed methods section (indicating how the study you propose stems logically from the literature review)
 - d) Expected findings (What would they contribute to knowledge and practice?)
5. Assignment #2 (Option B): Prepare a brief (15-20 pp.) paper that critically reviews the existing evidence on a topic not covered in the course.

Grading:

Assignment #1	35%
Assignment #2	65%

Required Readings:

Astin, A. (1993). What matters in college: Four critical years revisited. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Pascarella, E. & Terenzini, P. (1991). How college affects students: Findings and insights from twenty years of research. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Selected Readings (book chapters, journal articles, etc.) To be handed out.

Course Sequence:

January 17	Course Overview and Requirements
January 24	The Evolution of the Study of College Students/The Methodology of Assessing the Impact of College Readings: 1. Pascarella & Terenzini: Chapter 1 2. Astin: Preface, Chapters 1, 2, 3 3. Pascarella & Terenzini: Appendix
January 31	The Methodology of Assessing the Impact of College Reading: From Previous Week
February 7	Qualitative Approaches to Assessing the Impact of College (Elizabeth Whitt, guest) Reading: To be handed out
February 14	Theories of College Student Change and Impact Reading: Pascarella & Terenzini: Chapter 2
February 21	Individual Meetings (Assignment #1)
February 28	Learning and Cognitive Development Readings: 1. Astin: Chapter 7 2. Pascarella & Terenzini: Chapters 3 & 4
March 7	Psychosocial Changes (Assignment #1 due) Readings: 1. Astin: Chapter 4 2. Pascarella & Terenzini: Chapters 5 & 6
March 14	Spring Break (No Class)
March 21	Persistence and Degree Attainment Readings: 1. Pascarella & Terenzini: Chapter 9 2. Astin: Chapter 9

March 28	Individual Meetings
April 4	Career & Economic Returns Readings: 1. Astin: Chapter 8 2. Pascarella & Terenzini: Chapters 10 & 11
April 11	Quality of Life and Postsecondary Education (Brief Presentation of Research Proposals or Literature Reviews) Reading: Pascarella & Terenzini: Chapter 12
April 18	Individual Meetings
April 25	The Impact of College: Summary and Implications (Brief Presentation of Research Proposals or Literature Reviews) Readings: 1. Astin: Chapters 10, 11, 12 2. Pascarella & Terenzini: Chapters 13 & 14
May 2	Final Class (TBA)
May 9	Assignment #2 Due