Björklunden Seminars

"Vacation with a purpose"





Fact or Fiction: Images of Schools and Adolescents in Hollywood Films

Course Description

In this course we'll watch and talk about movies that explore the various ways in which a range of Hollywood films (and the occasional foreign film) have influenced, even shaped, Americans' perceptions of schools, the kids who attend them, and the teachers who work in them.

We'll look closely at how they portray "other people's children" and their schools, what they have to say about class, race, and gender in America today, their contributions to cultural and ethnic stereotypes, and the norms and values they support or (sometimes) challenge.

Finally, we'll examine the philosophical and ethical questions they pose about the nature of a good society and how we conceptualize childhood and adolescence.

Instructor



Stewart Purkey

Purkey, the Director of Teacher Education at Lawrence University, is an Associate Professor and the Bee Connell Mielke Professor of Education.

He teaches foundational courses in the sociology of education and on cultural and ethnic diversity in education. Periodically, he teaches a course titled "Hollywood Goes to High School" as well as one on community and the environment.

A graduate of Stanford University (AB) and UW-Madison (PhD), he has been at Lawrence for a whole bunch of years.

