

EDAD 8141 - History of Higher Education

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section A01, CRN 43942,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Phyllis M. Paul

Email: pmpaul@ysu.edu

Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Dr. Phyllis M. Paul, Professor

Instructor Professional Qualifications: Ph.D., Music Education, Florida State University, 2003

Instructor Office Location: N/A

Instructor Office Phone: N/A

Course Description

8141. History of Higher Education. A course that examines the historical development of post-secondary education in the United States. The purpose of the course is to identify how higher educational institutions have been utilized and situated throughout American history with special attention given to locating the historical context and source of the promise and problems associated with contemporary American higher education. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	A history of American higher education (3rd ed.)	Thelin	
Required	The uses of the university	Kerr	
Required	Tell them we are rising	PBS	

Required Texts:

Kerr, C. (1963). *The uses of the university*. Harvard University Press.

Myers, N. R. (2007). American Pestalozzianism revisited: Alfred Holbrook and the origins of object-based pedagogy in 19th century America. *American Educational History Journal*, 34(1), 85–96.

Nelson, S., & Williams, M. (Directors). (2018). *Tell them we are rising: The story of Black colleges and universities* [Film]. Firelight Films, Inc.; National Black Programming Consortium; Independent Television Service. (Retrieved from www.pbs.org. May be accessed here – log in with YSU Y#.)

Thelin, J. R. (2019). *A history of American higher education* (3rd ed.). Johns Hopkins University Press.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Read: Thelin, 1-40 Watch: Myers Module 1 Lecture: "American Higher Education in the 17th & 18th Centuries"	Colleges in the Colonial Era	Quiz over Reading/Lecture Discussion



8/31	Read: Thelin, 41-73 Watch: Myers Module 2 Lecture: "The Free & Protected Market in American Education" Read: Myers, N. R. "American Pestalozzianism revisited: Alfred-Holbrook & the origins of object-based pedagogy in 19th century America"	The "American Way" in Higher Education	Quiz over Reading/Lecture Discussion
9/7	Read: Thelin, 74-154 Watch: Myers Lecture Module 3: "So goes the nation: The maturation of US higher education "	A Changing Nation: American Higher Education Matures	Quiz over Reading/Lecture Discussion
9/14	Read: Thelin, 155-204 Watch: Myers Lecture Module 4: "Institutional Artifacts as History"	Alma Mater: America Goes to College	Quiz over Readings/Lecture Discussion Institutional Artifact Assignment
9/21	Read: Thelin, 205-259 Watch: Myers Lecture Module 5: "Graduate Education and the Research Function in US Higher Education" Watch: "Tell Them We Are Rising" (Film, 83 minutes)	Expansion & Reforms in Higher Education, 1920-1945	Quiz over Reading/Lecture Discussion
9/28	Read: Thelin, 260-316 Read: Kerr, Chapter 2 Watch: Myers Lecture Module 6: "Does Higher Education Form or Reflect American Values?"	Higher Education's Golden Age: 1945-1970	Quiz over Reading/Lecture Discussion
10/5	Read: Thelin, 317-440 Watch: "Thelin on US Higher Education" (Film, 5 minutes)	US Higher Education 1970 to Present	Historical Spotlight Assignment

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.