

Diverse Perspectives On Curriculum & Pedagogy

2015-2016 Seminar Series

hosted by William E. Doll, Jr., Donna Trueit, William Pinar

January 15th

The Courage of Hopelessness: Democratic Education in the Age of Empire

E. Wayne Ross | Professor, EDCP

Friday, January 15th, 2016 | 12:30-2:00 p.m. | Scarfe Room 310

Sandwiches and informal conversation at noon | The lecture commences at 12:30 p.m.

In this talk I argue there is a disconnect between the rhetoric and reality of democracy in North America that subverts traditional approaches to democratic education. The tropes that have historically dominated the discourse on democracy and democratic education now amount to selling students (and ourselves) a lie about history and contemporary life. Our challenge is to re-imagine our roles as educators and find ways to create opportunities for students to create meaningful personal understandings of the world. Education is not about showing life to people, but bringing them to life. The aim is not getting students to listen to convincing lectures by experts, but getting them to speak for themselves in order to achieve, or at least

strive for an equal degree of participation and a more democratic, equitable, and justice future. This requires a new mindset, something I call dangerous citizenship.

E. Wayne Ross is Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy at UBC. He has written and edited numerous books including: *Critical Theories, Radical Pedagogies and Social Education* (Sense, 2010); *The Social Studies Curriculum: Purposes, Problems and Possibilities* (4th Ed., SUNY Press, 2014) and *Working for Social Justice Inside and Outside the Classroom* (Peter Lang, 2016). He also edits the journals *Critical Education*, *Workplace: A Journal for Academic Labor*, and *Cultural Logic*.

