Chapter 9: Textbooks, Curriculum, E-Learning, and Instruction

Kelly, Angie, and Kayla
Censorship Issues

- General reasons of censorship:
  - Sexual Content (including sex ed books)
  - Offensive language (including racial slurs)
  - Anti-Christian or endorsement of other religion
  - Objections to historical interpretations, environmentalism, feminism, and discussions of government
  - Uns suited for age group (violence)
Censored Items

- School text books
- Library books
- Websites
- Standardized tests
Texas and California; are they helping or hindering education?

- Should students be given the choice to read books from different viewpoints?
- Should parents?
- Should the government or school administration?
- If none of these, who makes the choice?

The most commonly banned books pertain to the subject matters of history, science, math, and health (sex ed).
Library books

- Should a child be limited to the educational possibilities provided to them by a variety of literature?
  - Should students be given the choice to read books from different viewpoints?
  - Should parents?
  - Should the government or school administration?
  - If none of these, who makes the choice?

Some books that have been banned include the Harry Potter series, A Wrinkle in Time, and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
In schools, if you receive funding for computers with internet capabilities, you must filter the content.

In Virginia, all public K-12 schools are required to teach internet safety.

Since it’s a relatively new field, censorship is still difficult to manage.
Standardized Tests

- Should standardized tests be censored?
- Should minority groups be taken into account?
- Who should decide the standards?
Kliebard’s four types of curriculum:

- Social efficiency - focuses on preparation for work force
- Humanism - general intellectual skills
  - Essentialist - common core curriculum for all
- Social meliorism - curriculum to make students aware of social reform
- Developmentalism - focuses on the needs of the individual, psychological needs
Social reconstructionists- stress social studies in order to produce a student who is politically and economically savvy.

Free schools- students have the choice of what to learn.
Extrinsic motivation doesn’t work, it has to be intrinsic
Knowledge has a social origin, not religious
Child-centered education
Instruction

- Larry Cuban
  - if properly executed, his theories have the potential to positively impact a student’s learning
  - Activity program: stresses interaction between students and teachers in the selection of subject matter
  - Project method: uses individual and group projects to learn
  - Open classroom: student directed learning; students should take an active role in their education, not a passive one
  - Competency based instruction: develop object, figure out how to meet the objective, understand all steps taken to meet objective (assessment)
Paulo Freire, worked with social issues and the oppressed

- Objectification: to read or write about one’s actions
- Codification- 5 stages, aides critical thinking
- Three levels of learning
  - Teachers learn about surroundings
  - How they think about the world
  - And then why they think about the world the way they do. (Reflection)
Any questions?