

# Educational Studies

At Illinois Wesleyan we help students interested in becoming teachers or working with children and families in a variety of settings and occupations. Whatever your goal, we work to make sure that your experience will be rewarding, as it is our aim to graduate teacher-scholars who are dedicated to social justice and are well-grounded in their disciplines. It is our job to help you become reflective, resourceful, and responsive in the field, assisting you in your commitment to challenge the inequities that exist in schooling and society. In so doing, we will help you become outstanding teachers and leaders who will change our educational system for the better.

## Teacher Education

To become a great teacher you need to learn how to help all children learn. This means that you need to understand the challenges children confront inside and outside of the classroom as well as the nature of the ideas with which they need to engage. In short, you need to become an expert in the curriculum relevant to your teaching, and you need to understand the needs of the children with whom you interact. At the same time you need to appreciate the gifts that your students bring to the classroom, and thus also appreciate and affirm their diverse backgrounds, be they related to ethnicity, socio-economic class, culture, language, gender, ability or sexual orientation. We are excited to work with you as you begin this most interesting and important journey.

## The Interdisciplinary Major or Minor in Educational Studies

The interdisciplinary Educational Studies major or minor prepares students to work with children and families in government, private industry, adult education, museums, recreation, after-school care and social work or social policy. The Educational Studies curriculum also prepares students for graduate and professional school in education, social policy, school counseling or law.

## Why Educational Studies at Illinois Wesleyan?

- All students are placed in local schools concurrent with their first course *Education and Social Justice*. It is a unique advantage to gain hands-on experience in actual classrooms during your first year in college.
- Senior year (fall semester) student teaching takes place in an area school or through the Chicago Center Urban Teaching Program.
- Most student teachers have a year-long mentoring relationship with their cooperating teachers.
- Student teachers receive ongoing mentoring and support from their University supervisors during student teaching.
- All students conduct a year-long inquiry project senior year and participate in the John Wesley Powell Research Conference.
- The campus Student Education Association is very active, and is affiliated with the National Education Association (NEA).



## Teacher Licensure Programs

- Elementary (1-6)
- Secondary (9-12)
  - English Language Arts
  - Mathematics
  - Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics
  - Social Science: History
  - French and Spanish (K-12)

*The above programs are accredited by the Illinois State Board of Education.*

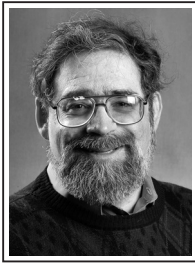
## Interdisciplinary Concentrations in Educational Studies

*(non-licensure course of study)*

- Child and Family Studies
- Education and Public Policy
- Education, Ethnicity and Social Class
- Education and International Studies
- Education and Gender Studies

## Reading Teacher Coursework

- Foundations of Literacy: Reading, Writing, and Oral Communication
- Child and Adolescent Literature
- Advanced Assessment and Diagnosis of Reading
- Advanced Interventions for Struggling Readers
- Internship in Reading



“ We work closely with every student in Educational Studies.

The faculty offer an intellectually rigorous and challenging curriculum. At the same

time we provide individual mentoring, support and guidance so that all students may achieve academic and professional success. Educational Studies students create communities of peer support as they undertake the educational journey at Illinois Wesleyan.”

## Learning from a Quality Faculty

Educational Studies faculty have extensive experience working with children and adolescents in public schools and other settings, as well as within university teacher education programs. Our collective experience enables us to bring together the theoretical and the practical in meaningful ways for our students.

- **Irving Epstein**, *Ben and Susan Rhodes Professor of Peace and Social Justice, Chair of Educational Studies, Director of the Center for Human Rights and Social Justice*

*Ph.D. — University of California, Los Angeles*

Specializations include educational policy, secondary history education, comparative and international education, children’s rights and international human rights.

- **Robin Leavitt**, *Professor of Educational Studies*  
*Ph.D. — University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

Specializations include sociology and philosophy of education, teacher inquiry and child and family studies.

- **Leah Nillas**, *Associate Professor of Educational Studies and Coordinator of Secondary Education*

*Ph.D. — Illinois State University*

Specializations include K-12 mathematics education, educational technology and teacher inquiry.

- **Pennie Gray**, *Assistant Professor of Educational Studies and Coordinator of Elementary Education*

*Ph.D. — Illinois State University*

Specializations include elementary and middle school, literacy and reading, and composition.

- **Margaret Evans**, *Visiting Assistant Professor of Educational Studies*  
*Ph.D. — University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

Specializations include child study, assessment, evaluation, and teacher education policy.

- **Jen Crider**, *Director of Field Placement*  
*M.S. — Bradley University*

Specializations include elementary and fine arts education.

## Putting Learning into Practice

Fieldwork over four years of professional and liberal arts education integrates theory and practice. IWU graduates teach all over the state of Illinois, including urban, rural and suburban areas. Others venture across the U.S. to states such as Georgia, Hawaii, California, Alaska, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Graduates have also found employment in Japan, Mexico and European countries. Many go on to graduate school in areas such as special education or counseling. Interdisciplinary majors pursue various careers working with children and families.

## Professor Irving Epstein

Educational Studies Department Chair



**ILLINOIS WESLEYAN**  
UNIVERSITY

## For Further Information, Write or Call:

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