Essentials of disability studies for special education

Radical approaches to disability and policy making towards educating disabled people

Lecture 3

Moving from interpretivism to radical approaches

Mutual challenges: individuals and mainstream society

Is it possible to improve society?

What is the target: to introduce new norms or assist people to be more resistive to social oppression?

What is the mission of education:

equalise or provide diversity ?

Revolutionary and reflexive approaches

Common traits	Differencies
Changes are required	Agents of changes, domains of transformation
Mainstream norms are to be limited	in which way
Child as an actor	Within which activity , global or local context
Disability as a challenge to mainstream society	What are reasonable expectations
Education should be transformed	Improved or diminished

Teachers vs. schools ?!
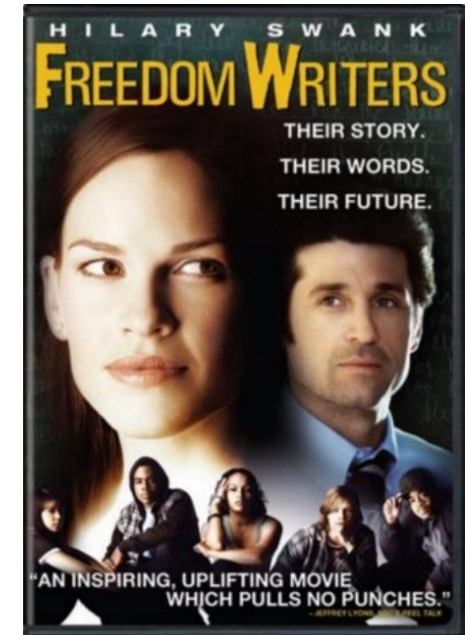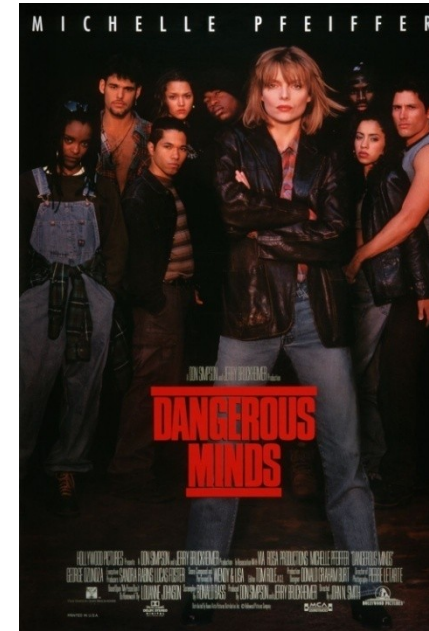
Up to down staircase (1967): the novel by Bel Kaufman

- Teachers as adherers of rules vs. teachers as violators of rules
- Epistolary genre of the novel: the impact of verbalization
- School and professionals as an institution of segregation
- Interaction *student – lecturer* as a symbolic and insulting children

Questions to the fragment:

- What are expectations of the teacher and the student?
- Could you interpret the follow-up given by the teacher in different approaches?
- If you would be a teacher what would be your behaviour?

Stand and deliver (1988)
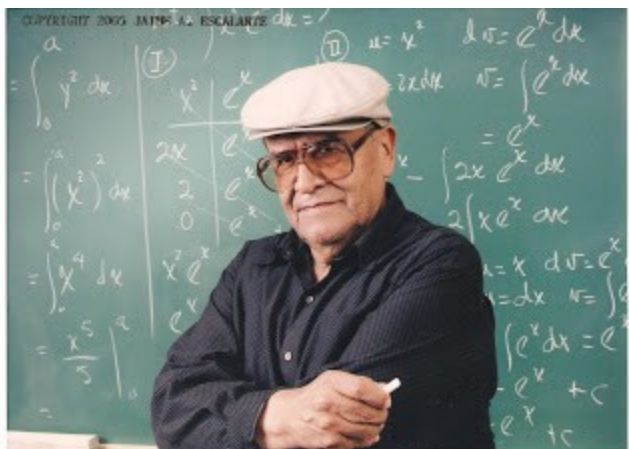
Jaime Escalante, born in Bolivia, taught mathematic, kept at school more than 15 years
He worked out the special strategy to teach mathematic as well as lobbied the opportunity for students to take the state exam of mathematic.
He considered that he should be in close collaboration with communities and families

Questions to the fragment http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MI6y-uRLSiE

- How does the teacher build boundaries?
- Are these boundaries flexible and sustainable?
- Why is he successful in working out discipline?

Resources of teachers to provide changes

- Identity with students

- Deep interest to the subject of teaching

- Devotion to the profession

- Readiness to share knowledge

- Focus on teaching **process** not formal **outputs**

- Acceptance of existing procedures of gatekeeping

- Disobedience to internal rules

Main challenges of disobedient teaching

The practice of disobedience among teachers is reproduced over generations of pedagogues as in practice as in mainstream culture.

- How do you explain this phenomena?

- What are outputs of such alternative practices? Generally, is it efficient strategy?

- What are its threats, and who takes risks: students, teacher, community?

- How could you evaluate the position of these pedagogues in terms of approaches: which notion of norms and changes do they operate?
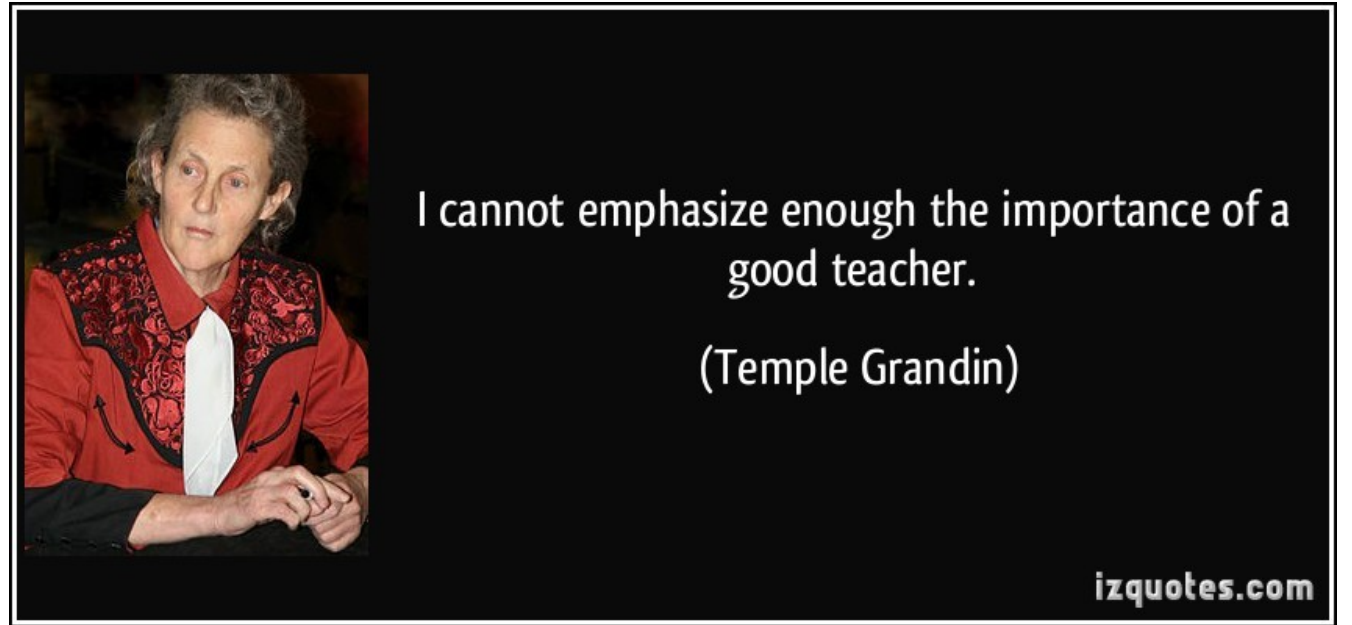
Politicising educational routine

1.45
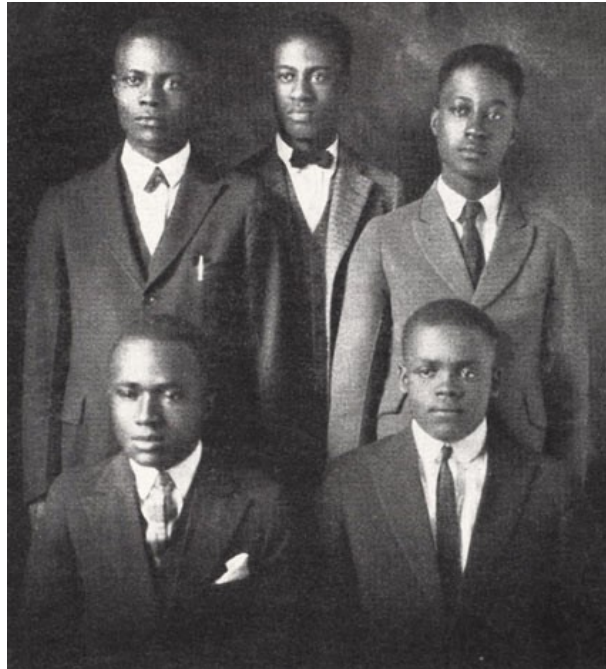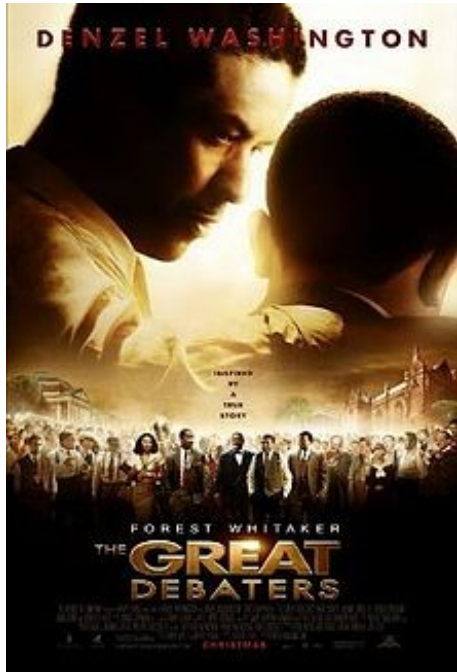
__Melvin Beaunorus Tolson__ Anybody know who Willie Lynch was? Anybody? Raise your hand. No one? He was a vicious slave owner in the West Indies. The slave-masters in the colony of Virginia were having trouble controlling their slaves, so they sent for Mr. Lynch to teach them his methods. The word "lynching" came from his last name. His methods were very simple, but they were diabolical. Keep the slave physically strong but psychologically weak and dependent on the slave master. __Keep the body, take the mind.__

What has been politicised?

- Aims
- Methods
- The placement of education

Compatible actions/issues in disability movements

- Attempts of teachers to overcome the frontiers established by special education

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of a good teacher.

(Temple Grandin)

izquotes.com

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWBo886FuQo
Documentary
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EuzE6lMQQmo
Fiction

Behind the success of Temple Grandin

- The impact of school (***Hampshire Country School*** and milieu therapy or the impact or the particular teacher)
- The role of family and space around it
- The increasing power of parents' movement

Compatible actions/issues
in disability movements

- The choice between integration to mainstream society and belongings to the community of disabled people