

A Course on the History of Physics Education in the U.S.

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We will discuss our article for the American Journal of Physics that provides information for other scholars to offer a graduate-level course on the history of physics education in the U.S. This course was offered at CU Boulder in Fall 2012 and will be offered again in the near future. In this course, students examine primary-source scholarly writings about the transformation of physics instruction from the mid-1860s to the present as well as physics textbooks throughout this time. Transformation efforts such as the New Movement in Physics Education beginning in 1906, the Physical Science Study Committee beginning in 1956, and Task Force for Teacher Education in Physics beginning in 2008, along with many others, are examined in this course. Also examined is the role of high-profile physicists such as Robert Millikan and Edwin Hall and psychologists/philosophers such as John Dewey in national movements to transform physics education.