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Philosophy of Education Reflection

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Joe Dotterweich

This semester surely was one for the record books. Between a global pandemic shutting down things across the globe and adjusting to life to at home for almost half a year, it has been a trying time. For the most part, the semester was going swimmingly. I was doing well in all of my classes, not having to stress an excessive amount about any one class in particular. The relationships I had formed in the fall semester were growing stronger making it a wonderful time in my life. I continued my internship from the beginning of the year, making money and gaining real-world experience. A week before shutdown, I had returned from spring break in Fort Lauderdale with my friends, an experience I will not soon forget. Everything was looking up but turned on its head at the drop of a hat.

Obviously one of the most influential aspects of this semester is none other than COVID-19. I did not imagine that Fisher would close or that the virus would have as widespread effects as it did. We kind of get screwed living in New York as the legislation surrounding the virus is built for NYC, a completely different situation than the rest of New York. It was definitely an adjustment period to come home early leaving my friends and learning remotely. I would much rather learn in a face to face class. While yes, it is nice to be at home and not have to go to class, but other than that, it is not a positive experience, at least for me. To start, it becomes increasingly difficult to find time to work online as my internet cannot handle everyone in my family. My sister, my mom, and my dad are all working from home using the internet, so we have to work out a schedule to access the internet as we cannot all access it at the same time. In addition, I have had almost no motivation to complete my work, it almost seems as if it is voluntary. Without taking the effort to get up and go to class, I am much less invested in class. Staying inside 24/7 is starting to get to everyone in my family making us all a little still crazy.

Personally, All I need open are gyms and golf course and to have the ability to hang out with friends, but who knows when that will happen.

Aside from the virus, some major life event happened this semester. The main thing that comes to mind is the work done with my future career. Spring semester is a very busy time for accounting students between recruiting and interviews. Fisher students are lucky enough to have the major accounting firms come onto campus and speak with us about the opportunities available at their respective companies. If you would have told me at the beginning of the semester that school was going to close down, my first thought would have gone right to recruiting and what would have to change. For students planning on staying for there MBA, their junior year is the most important for recruiting, which just happens to be my year. Thankfully, recruiting was able to take place without a hitch and finished before the coronavirus outbreak. I was lucky enough to receive several internship offers to the big four accounting firms, a huge accomplishment for me. It proved to me that all of the hard work and preparation I had put in over the course of my educational career was worth it. In the accounting world, internships usually turn into full-time offers as long as you perform well during the internship. So receiving the offers is as close to a job offer as someone can get taking a weight off my shoulders. Knowing as long as I don't screw up, I should have a job ready when I leave college, a privilege not everyone has.

Football has always been a significant aspect of spring semesters in the past between offseason workouts, meetings, and spring ball. Clearly, this was shut down almost before it got started. We got approximately three weeks of working out before COVID-19 but did not get a single spring practice in. We lost valuable time to get better and grow as a team. Thankfully, everyone has to deal with the situation, outing everyone on an even playing field. The

responsibility to get ready for the season was shifted almost exclusively to the player instead of being a combination of coaches and players. No one is there to get on your case if you do not workout one day or skip a meeting. You have to hold yourself accountable and put in the work when no one is watching, showing your true character. When it comes time to report in the summer, assuming we are able to do so on time, we will see who really put in the work and those slacked off.

Going into this year, I did not really know what to expect from this class. I did not know anyone who had taken it in the past, I simply choose it because I knew like the teacher. I had Professor Snyder for my research writing class, the juvenile justice system, and really liked the way she conducted class, not to mention I did fairly well in that class. In the beginning, I was fairly indifferent about the subject, education, but I feel I was able to at the very least gain a respect for it. I figured I would just coast through relying on my writing skills to get me by but to my surprise I started to conceptualize what we were learning in class. Professor Snyder was able to get me to relate to the information showing how we have been a part of it our whole lives, giving me something to latch on. I found myself connect philosophies back to my experiences in the education system comparing and contrasting them. While I do not know if there is anything specific I will take forward from this class, besides maybe the importance of connection and individualism, I nonetheless will be able to look at education a little differently, especially when the time comes that I become a parent.