What is the role of education in our society, and how do policies that affect education impact schools, students, teachers, families and communities? How is teaching changing to engage learners? Ethical, social, legal, psychological, philosophical, and historical factors important in education will be examined, as well as the connection between equity and social justice to education today. In addition, participants will assist in classes in a nearby school to experience teaching and learning in a real-world setting.

These questions and more will be addressed with a STEM perspective in this special section of EDUC 310. Issues in education will be examined through critical analysis of readings, discussions, personal reflections, practice lessons, and other activities. A field experience at an assigned school near campus is a required component of the course.
MEET THE INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Krikorian

This course will be taught by Dr. Jacqueline Krikorian, Adjunct Instructor and Program Director for the INSPIRES research study in STEM education in UMBC’s Education Department. Before earning her master’s degree in teaching secondary science, Dr. Krikorian earned her doctorate in Human Anatomy and Neuroscience, and taught medical and graduate school at the University of Maryland, and Georgetown University.

In addition to her love for teaching, she has extensive experience in cellular and molecular neuroscience research in medical school settings, and as an American Heart Association postdoctoral fellow in molecular neuroscience at the National Institutes of Health. Inspired by her enthusiasm for science and science education for young adults, she subsequently began her high school science teaching career teaching at-risk students in Howard County, after earning a Master of Arts in Teaching degree at UMBC.

She joined the INSPIRES project leadership team at UMBC in 2015, for the development of innovative curricula that bring engineering into science and technology high school classrooms, and the professional development of high school teachers in support of curriculum implementation. Her main research interests are in the development of curricula and classroom practices that infuse engineering into STEM classrooms, and at the same time engage all learners with hands-on experiences, all while encouraging critical thinking.