

FALL 1995

DAY

EDUC 240-3
SOCIAL ISSUES IN EDUCATION
(D1.00)

C. HAIG-BROWN

By "critical" I mean a philosophy that is aware of the limits of knowing.,
Gayatri Spivak 1994.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

"It is open season on schools," claims Sandro Contenta in *Rituals of Failure*. This course provides students an opportunity for critical examination of a range of social issues in education, from schooling to power relations. Inherent in the course is the understanding that education always exists in a social and historical context. To make visible the impact of these contexts particularly on schooling and to question the unquestionable about education are goals of the course. Lectures are used to present the issues while the required texts and articles provide additional perspectives on the topics under discussion. In tutorials, with teaching assistants, students have the opportunity for deeper, focused discussion based in their own experiences. Assignments and exams allow for synthesis of developing ideas. There will be a variety of guest speakers and videos. P.S. The instructor is an anti-racist, materialist feminist among other things.

OBJECTIVES:

Through the introduction of critical educational analysis, it is anticipated students will develop their abilities to engage in informed discussions of the purposes and practices of schooling. Examination of schools as sites of struggle over resources and ideologies, as locations of complex power relations, and as places of possibility are all aspects of the analysis.

TOPICS:

The social construction of education and schooling, current issues in British Columbia schools, political correctness and academic freedom, racism, sexism, heterosexism, and class bias in schools; and sociological constructs related to schools such as functionalism, reproduction, cultural production, postmodernism meritocracy, hegemony and agency.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

One short paper	25%
Mid-term	25%
Final exam or paper	40%
Seminar attendance.....	10%

REQUIRED TEXTS

Maude Barlow & H.J. Robertson. *Class Warfare: The Assault on Canada's Schools*. Toronto: Key Porter.

Isabelle Knockwood. *Out of the Depths*. Lockeport, N.S.: Roseway.

Browyn Davies. *Shards of Glass*. Cress Kill, NJ: Hampton.

Custom Courseware package

EDUCATION 240-3 SOCIAL ISSUES IN EDUCATION

This course introduces students to the study of public education as a social institution in terms of its origins, character, consequences, and possible future. Students are encouraged to explore, analyze and raise questions concerning issues such as the aims and practices of public schooling, education and socialization, streaming and testing, school knowledge and social class, racism and sexism in education.

PREREQUISITE: None.

REQUIRED TEXT: None.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

There are 4 assignment submissions each worth 25% of the final grade.