

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY FALL SEMESTER 2007

**EDUC 240 SOCIAL ISSUES IN
EDUCATION
D300**

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Friday 12:30-2:20 AQ 4130

DESCRIPTION This course introduces students to a number of social mechanisms that work inside and outside of educational institutions. The social mechanisms to be studied will be authority, recognition, reproduction, and resistance. The assumption of this course is that one cannot be an effective educator, nor can one be knowledgeable about education in general, without thinking about the ways that social mechanisms inform educational practices. To that end, one of the goals of this course is to encourage fruitful dialogue about social issues in class discussions, and to encourage personal re-valuing of some of the ways that we engage with others in educational institutions. This course is not about a list of facts or certain solutions/outcomes. It is about learning some of the mechanisms that exist in educational situations, and about becoming aware of the social dangers and the social benefits that arise during the educational process.

What do you need to participate? You need to be receptive to various perspectives and thoughts on educational issues. If you can imagine connections between, on the one hand, educational institutions and all of the things that people do therein, and, on the other, the social dynamics that get enacted in the world around us, then you will be prepared to participate in this course. Participation includes voicing your thoughts, completing all of the readings (they are challenging), and doing the required writings and group projects under the guidance of your tutorial instructors.

COURSE WORK & EVALUATION

- 40% Final paper based on course readings
- 40% Four essays of 1000 words.

- 20% Group presentations

Final Paper

This will be a 12-15 page analysis that is based on course readings. It will be evaluated according to university criteria. Clear and creative exposition, as well as association of ideas from your own educational experience and our course readings, are encouraged.

Short Essays

Topics to be discussed.

Group Presentations

A group presentation, showing a dynamic representation of course themes, will be done in tutorial.

Participation

Attendance and participation are important. Students are expected to attend all lecture sessions and participate actively in all tutorials.

REQUIRED READING: 5 books, 1 small course reader

Books:

Paulo Freire
Pedagogy of the Oppressed
Continuum 2000
Isbn: 0826412769

Athol Fugard
My Children! My Africa!
Theatre Communications Group 1990
Isbn: 1559360143

Jonathon Kozol
Savage Inequalities
HarperCollins Canada, 1992
ISBN 10: 0060974990

Jacques Rancière
The Ignorant Schoolmaster: Five Lessons in Intellectual Emancipation?
Stanford UP, 1991,
ISBN 10: 0804719691

Ernst Gaines

A Lesson Before Dying

Vintage Books 1997

Isbn: 0375702709