

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
SPRING SEMESTER 2007**

**EDUC 240-3
SOCIAL ISSUES IN EDUCATION
(D02.00)**

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Mondays 1:30-4:20
Surrey Campus Room 3340

PREREQUISITE: None.

Course Outline

From the University Course Calendar:

<http://students.sfu.ca/calendar/>

EDUC 240: Social Issues in Education. Social functions of the school; education and socialization; social, political, economic and cultural influences on the institutions and practices of education.

Description of Course:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a number of sociocultural issues affecting schools and education. A number of perspectives on substantive issues will lead to engaging dialogues and discussions, with a focus on critical thinking, reflection, and analysis of themes, controversies, and contradictions. We will focus on issues arising from broader topics such as gender; race, ethnicity and culture; First Nations education; sexual orientation and family composition; and class; among others.

Learning outcomes for students:

Students will not acquire a reassuring list of solutions to school-related social problems. The course will emphasize engagement with the complexity of issues that are not adequately addressed through step-by-step recipes. Through a range of learning experiences including individual study and relevant readings; small-group and whole-class discussions; problem-solving activities; and written and oral presentations, students in EDUC 240 will:

- become knowledgeable about social issues that affect schools and education, particularly in BC;
- examine ways in which privilege, power, and disadvantage shape educational experiences;
- explore ways of fostering equity and equality in education through an examination of key social issues and strategies to navigate and/ or ameliorate.

Assignments:

- Participation in class discussion 10%
- in-class midterm 30%
- field activity 20%
- final paper 40%

Texts:
Weekly readings TBA