

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
SPRING SEMESTER 2008**

**EDUC 240-3  
Social Issues in Education  
(D100)**

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Friday 9:30-12:20 pm SFU Surrey Room 3240

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**PREREQUISITES:** none

**DESCRIPTION**

Based on the belief that learning is inherently a social and relational activity, this course will explore social relations in educational settings, and how they are shaped by social issues prevalent in wider contexts. A key objective of this course is to cultivate the ability to think critically about the social context in which people teach and learn. We will critically analyze the school's relationship to larger social challenges, explore equity and equality in educational contexts and examine the implications of social justice for teaching and learning. You will be encouraged, both in lecture and in tutorial, to participate in dialogue and reflection that promotes this understanding. Some of the key topics we will cover are how power and privilege operate, manifesting in social issues such as race, sexism, heteronormativity, disability, poverty, and corporate presence in the classroom.

**Course Requirements:**

Readings must be completed by the day of the lecture/tutorial (except for first day of class). You are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Learning log/responses to readings	20%
Two reflective writing pieces	20%
Group presentation	20%
Final paper based on course readings	40%

**REQUIRED READING:**

Books:

Freire, Paulo. (2000) *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. Translated by Myra Bergman Ramos. New York: Continuum  
ISBN 0826412769

Sterling, Shirley. (1992). *My name is Seepetza*. Vancouver: Douglas & MacIntyre  
ISBN 0888991657

A selection of articles will be available from the instructor on the first day of class. Some articles will be accessible online/electronically.

A detailed schedule, requirements, reading list and assignment criteria will be distributed in class.

***Students in all Faculty of Education courses are encouraged to review policies pertaining to academic integrity available on the Undergraduate Programs website:***  
**[http://www.educ.sfu.ca/ugradprogs/student\\_resources/index.html](http://www.educ.sfu.ca/ugradprogs/student_resources/index.html)**

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