

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
SPRING SEMESTER 2009**

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

Dr. Michael Levykh
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Thursday 2:30-5:20 pm Harbour Centre Campus Room 1530

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Based on the belief that learning is inherently a social and relational activity, and should lead to a successful cultural development, this course will explore social relations in educational settings, and how they are shaped by philosophical, psychological, and sociological issues prevalent in wider contexts. A key objective of this course is to cultivate the ability to think critically about the contexts in which people teach, learn, and develop. We will critically analyze the school's relationship to larger social challenges and explore the dialectical paradigm as an alternative to common Western educational practices. You will be encouraged to participate in dialogue and reflection that promotes this understanding and consider topics such as: Race, Identity, Personality; Morals, Values; Gender Role, Violence, Bullying; Cultural Diversity, Immigrants, Multiculturalism; Globalization, Religion; and the Social Origin of Affective Learning and Development.

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. Participation includes voicing your thoughts, completing all of the readings, and doing the required writings and group projects.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

40% on a final paper of 8 pages (double spaced) in length (topic to be determined in consultation with the instructor) and due on the last class;
30% on a group-presentation in class on a topic to be determined in consultation with the instructor;
30% on student participation (including attendance and preparation of brief summaries – 1 page maximum – of the course readings that must be completed prior to class discussions of them).

REQUIRED READING:

Levykh, M.G. (Compiler), (2009). Custom Courseware: EDUC 240: Social Issues in Education, Simon Fraser University (required).

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
