

Simon Fraser University Faculty of Education

## FALL SEMESTER 2007

### EDUC 497-4

## SPECIAL TOPIC: International Educational Systems

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Wednesday 4:30-8:20  
AQ 4150

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**PREREQUISITE:** 60 credit hours

### DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to the purpose, goals, structure and functioning of educational systems internationally, including legal provisions, political and economic conditions, and important social, political, and cultural factors influencing their practices and societal purpose. The central focus is on the role of various institutions and groups such as government, governing bodies, administrative staff, teachers, and other participants in education, including the role that other societal sectors may play in shaping educational theory, policy, and provision of resources. These will be discussed in comparison with Canadian educational practice. Course material and assignments will focus on current issues and problems affecting professional practice, such as: access and opportunity; accountability and authority; teacher training and professionalism; commercialisation; internationalisation and globalisation; pseudo-philosophies of education; distributed learning; virtual education; and leadership practices.

### REQUIRED READINGS

Crossley, M. and Watson, K. (2003) *Comparative and International Research in Education: Globalisation, Context and Difference*. London: RoutledgeFalmer.  
Kubow, P. and Fossum, P. (2007) *Comparative Education: Exploring Issues in International Context*. 2nd ed. Prentice-Hall.

A list of website documents and thematic bibliography on relevant topics will be provided at the first class.

### ASSIGNMENTS

The term paper is intended as an opportunity to conduct a more detailed examination of a feature of the selected educational system of personal interest (a list of proposed paper topics will be discussed on the first day of class). The assignment will be composed of a number of specific requirements that will be

integrated into the final paper:

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|------------------------|-----|
| 1. Presentation Paper  | 20% |
| 2. Term Paper Proposal | 15% |
| 3. Article Review      | 15% |
| 4. Term Paper          | 35% |
| 5. Participation       | 15% |

The general requirements of the Term Assignment components are as follows:

1. Presentation and Presentation Paper: will be a 15 to 20 minute presentation for class discussion of a draft of the presentation paper. The presentation paper is an 8-10 page overview description of the educational system in the country selected for the term's course work. A guideline of features to assist in this assignment will be handed out in the first class (20%). DUE DATE: the week after presenting in class.

2. Term Paper Proposal: will include a 2 page detailed outline in narrative form that will identify the major theme, the approach taken, and various aspects of the theme to be developed, accompanied by a 2 page bibliography using both monograph and periodical literature. It is recommended that you email a draft of this assignment to me for preliminary feedback approximately 1 week before the due date. (4 pp. total) (15%) DUE DATE: 3 October.

3. Article Review: 3-4 page review of 3 articles from the academic journal (peer reviewed) literature on the central topic of the Term Paper. It is strongly recommended that the search for articles be started early on and notes towards the review be developed as the course progresses and material relevant to this assignment is covered. Guidelines for writing article reviews will be distributed on the first day of class (15%). DUE DATE: 7 November.

4. Term Paper: 10-12 page paper drawing on material discussed in class, feedback on preceding assignments, as well as additional material found through documentary research (35%). DUE DATE: 5 December.

There are two options available for this paper:

- detailed work on a selected aspect of one non-Canadian educational system
- a comparison of a selected aspect of a non-Canadian educational system with the Canadian educational system or another non-Canadian system

5. Participation: includes discussion in class on assigned readings, and preparation and discussion of presentation papers. (15%)

All written assignments should be typed, double-spaced (12 point Times New Roman or 10 point Courier), with one inch margins all around, and with formal footnoting and reference section (you may use any standard university-accepted formatting style: APA, MLA, Harvard, Cambridge, etc.). Please do not put a cover on the paper--just use a cover page and staple once in the top left corner. Also it is conventional in academic papers not to put borders or any other graphical embellishments on the pages--the text should be the main focus of the paper, supplemented with illustrative graphs, charts, diagrams or other images. You may submit papers electronically.

This course is designed so that human subject research is not required apart from information already in the public domain. Please note that any human subject research involving questionnaires, interviews or collecting other field data requires an approval from the SFU Office for Research ethics.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

- Sep 5: Introduction.
- Sep 12: Kubow/Fossum Chs 1, 2; Crossley/Watson Chs 1, 2.
- Sep 19: Research week on selection of country for term paper and topic for presentation paper.
- Sep 26: TBA
- Oct 3: Kubow/Fossum Chs 3, 4, 5, 6; Crossley/Watson Ch 3; Term Proposal Paper due.
- Oct 10: Presentations.
- Oct 17: Presentations.
- Oct 24: Presentations.
- Oct 31: Kubow/Fossum Chs 7, 8.
- Nov 7: Crossley/Watson Ch 4; Article Review due.
- Nov 21: Crossley/Watson Chs 6, 7
- Nov 28: Crossley/Watson Ch 8.
- Dec 5: Term Paper due.