

88-2

EDUCATION 395

SPECIAL TOPICS: SCHOOL AS A WORKPLACE

Summer Semester
May 9 - August 5
Thursday, 5:30 - 9:20
Location: MPX 7506

Instructor: Peter Coleman

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the course are to provide students with a range of information drawn from current research on schools as workplaces for students and teachers. It is expected that students will considerably enlarge their knowledge of schools in general, even of the schools they have experienced.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course falls into four sections. They are:

Schools as social institutions: This introductory section will examine four aspects of schools as social institutions: school functions; school quality; school climate; and school improvement.

Students and schools: This section will examine three dimensions of school effects on students: student opinions of schooling; student dropouts; and the school as preparation for citizenship.

Teachers and schools: This section will examine the school as workplace from the perspective of teachers. The main topics are teacher work; collegiality and the peer-group; working conditions; and staff development.

Parents and schools: The opinions of parents do not play a large part in shaping schools and schooling. Yet quite a lot is known about parents' preferences and potential role. The main topics here are parent opinions about school; parents as partners; and parents as political pressure groups.

ACTIVITIES:

Some of the course readings will be discussed at each class session. The purpose of these discussions is to arrive at some consensus about the importance and relevance of the material and to propose ways in which practitioners can make use of the information provided to improve schooling for children.

EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:

Evaluation will be based on class presentations, special assignments including analyses of school practices, and a term paper. The allotment of marks will be discussed at the first session.

COURSE TEXTS:

Required: Ghosh, R. & Ray, D. (1987). Social change and education in Canada. Toronto: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Recommended: Goodlad, J. I. (1984). A place called school. New York: McGraw-Hill.