

SPECIAL TOPICS: THE SCHOOL AS WORKPLACE

Regular Summer Semester, 1989
(May 8 - August 4)
Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.
Location: MPX 8651

Instructor: Peter Coleman
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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 perhaps of the schools they have experienced. In particular, the differences between effective and ineffective schools as teacher workplaces should emerge clearly.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is organized in four sections. They are:

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

Students and schools: This section will examine three dimensions of school effects on students: equality of opportunity; student influence and rights; 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; professionalism; and incentives.

Parents and schools: The main topics here are parent opinions about school; and parental contributions to school quality.

The class activities all focus upon using both the available research and the collective experience of class members to build a model of relationships within schools, focussing largely on teachers, which seem to contribute to school quality.

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.

Lortie, D.C. (1975). Schoolteacher. Chicago, Ill.: University of Chicago Press.

A list of readings is also required. Copies will be made available.