SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

EDUCATION 240-3

Social Issues in Education

Fall Semester, 1990
Tuesday & Thursday
10:30 - 11:20
Location: AQ 3150

Instructor: Murray Ross
Phone: 291-3395

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is concerned with the role and function of schools in society. Some of the major theories for explaining the place of educational institutions in society will be examined and applied to a variety of controversies in education. For the most part the issues to be considered are aspects of the more general problem of "ineffective" teachers and "ineffective" schools. Special attention will be paid to the idea of problems in education and the various suggestions which have been offered as solutions to these problems. Among the problems to be considered are declining standards of achievement, teacher incompetence and accountability, ineffective schools for the poor, the phenomena of racism, sexism, and social class bias in education.

OBJECTIVES:

The central goal of this course is to engage students in an informed critical discussion of the purposes, processes and outcomes of public schooling. Students will be introduced to the multiplicity of perspectives which various stakeholders (parents, teachers, citizens, policy analysts, etc.) have brought to bear on issues in education.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS:

The aims of education, justification for education, education and social justice, effective teaching, sexism, racism, school reform in the 1980s, the proposed curriculum and assessment framework for B.C. schools.

Evaluation will be based on two papers and a final exam. Details concerning these will be made available during the first week of classes.

REQUIRED TEXT:

W. Feinberg and J.S. Soltis. (1985). School and Society. Teachers College Press.

Jane Gaskell, Arlene McLaren, & Myra Novogrodsky. (1989). Claiming an Education: Feminism and Canadian Schools. Our Schools/Ourselves Education Foundation.

British Columbia Ministry of Education. (1989). Year 2000: A Curriculum and Assessment Framework for the Future.