

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
EDUCATION 240-3: SOCIAL ISSUES IN EDUCATION
(D2.00)

Spring Semester, 1994
(January 4-March 31)
Tuesday/Thursday, 13:30-15:00
Tutorial: Tuesday 10:30-11:20
Room: TBA

Instructor: Dr. S. Wassermann
Office: MPX 8629
Phone: 291-3798
291-3395

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course uses a case study approach to examine social, political, economic and cultural influences on schools, teachers, students, and the practices of education.

Students will study cases that explore conflicts arising from such pivotal questions as:

- Who should teach? Who does teach?
- Who decides what happens in classrooms?
- What do students learn in school?
- How are issues such as multiculturalism, class and gender bias, racism, children with special needs, addressed in educational practice?

The primary goals of the course include:

- to promote awareness of educational practice as a decision making process
- to examine how educational decisions are influenced by complex and inter-related social, political, cultural and economic factors
- to promote intelligent "meaning making" of the complex processes of decision-making in educational practice
- to promote a healthy tolerance for the uncertainties in professional decision-making
- to develop understanding of how one's own beliefs and values bear on the choices one makes in professional decision making contexts

NOTE: Students should be alerted to the fact that this course meets for two, 1 1/2 hour discussion sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students also meet in scheduled, but unsupervised Study Groups, for an additional hour on Tuesday mornings.

EVALUATION IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- a) The extent and quality of individual participation in class discussion and Study Groups is a primary requirement and plays a major role in assessment.
- b) The completion of two major assignments
- c) Self evaluation

REQUIRED READINGS

Wassermann, Selma (1993). Getting Down to Cases. New York: Teachers College Press.

Selected Readings - students will make choices from a list of options to inform their work on selected topics.

EDUCATION 240-3 SOCIAL ISSUES IN EDUCATION

This course introduces students to the study of public education as a social institution in terms of its origins, character, consequences, and possible future. Students are encouraged to explore, analyze and raise questions concerning issues such as the aims and practices of public schooling, education and socialization, streaming and testing, school knowledge and social class, racism and sexism in education.

PREREQUISITE: None.

REQUIRED TEXT: None.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

There are 4 assignment submissions each worth 25% of the final grade.

07/21/93

COURSE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES WITHOUT NOTICE.