

Education 240 - Social Issues in Education

Fall Term 1979

J.R. Covert

This course will study the ways that Foundations of Education seek to understand schooling in relation to its social context. Methodologies of Philosophy, Sociology and History will be employed to assist in making sense of selected contemporary issues of education. Competing ideologies will be assessed in an effort to construct a rational framework for examining some of the persistent problems of schooling and education.

Course Outline

- I. Why are there certain persistent Social Problems in Education?
 1. Questions of value.
 2. Formal and non-formal education.
 3. Establishing aims of education.
- II. Competing Views of Schooling
 1. The allocation function.
 2. Socialization.
 3. Alternative education.
- III. Relationships between Education and Other Institutions
 1. Schooling and the Family.
 2. Education and Religion.
 3. School and the Economy
- IV. Schooling and Social Processes
 1. Education and Social Mobility.
 2. Education and Authority.
 3. Education and Social Change.
- V. Teachers and Teaching
 1. Professionalization.
 2. Accountability.
 3. Modes of Teaching.

Evaluation

There will be three equal units of evaluation. There will be a common Final Exam as well as a Mid-term Exam; both will follow a take-home format. In addition, one-third of the final grade will be composed of an evaluative option growing from the discussion section.

Required Text

Christopher J. Hurn: *The Limits and Possibilities of Schooling*.

Suggested Texts

Harry S. Broudy: *The Real World of the Public School*.

Joel Spring: *American Education: An Introduction to Social and Political Aspects*.

Related Readings

1. Broudy: *Building a Philosophy of Education*.
2. Beck, Jenks, Keddie and Young (eds.): *Worlds Apart: Readings for a Sociology of Education*.
3. Postman & Weingartner: *Teaching as a Subversive Activity*.
4. Martin: *Canadian Educational Sociological Analysis*.
5. Chaiton & McDonald: *Canadian Schools and Canadian Identity*.
6. Stevenson, Stamp and Wilson: *The Best of Times/The Worst of Times*.
7. Hutchinson: *A Sociology of Canadian Education*.