

Education 240-3 Social Issues in Education

Spring Semester 1984
Monday/Wednesday 8:30-9:20
(plus 1 hour tutorial per week)

Instructor: A. Luke
Location: On Campus

OBJECTIVES: The objectives of this course are: 1) to provide a broad base of information about schooling as a social institution, with specific focus on B.C. and Canada; 2) to outline background information and points of view on contemporary public and professional controversies about the aims and practices of public schools; and 3) to provide foundational perspectives on these issues. The primary aim of the course is the development by each student of a coherent and justifiable critical perspective with which to identify and analyze debates on educational issues.

FORMAT: The course combines lectures, film and videotape presentations, guest speakers, with weekly seminars.

TOPICS include:

An introduction to the educational 'field' in British Columbia.
What is a "social issue"? Consensus and conflict over the aims and practices of public schooling.
Schooling as a social institution: ritual, socialization, cultural reproduction, and the "hidden curriculum".
Schooling in Multicultural society: institutional racism.
Academic and occupational equality for women.
Social class, social justice and the provision of "school knowledge".
Curricular form and content: the issue of Canadian control.
Standardized Testing: minimum competence, accountability, centralization.
Teacher rights and politics.
Radical alternative: Freirian pedagogy.
The aims and structures of post-secondary education.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Cusick, Phillip. Inside High School. Holt Rinehart, Winston, 1973.
Freire, Paulo. Education for Critical Consciousness. Seabury, 1978.
Selected articles from journals.

RECOMMENDED: Apple, Michael. Ideology and Curriculum. Routledge, 1979.
Wilson, J. D. Canadian Education in the 1980's. Detselig, 1981.

In addition to the two required texts, there will be a charge for articles handed out in class. Weekly readings will also be available on reserve.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students will be expected to complete assigned readings and to participate in seminar discussions. Three major assignments will be required: a short mid-term paper (5-7 pages); a short research paper (5-7 pages); and a take-home final essay examination.

NO PREREQUISITE COURSES ARE REQUIRED.