

EDUCATION 240-3
Social Issues in Education

Spring Semester, 1990
Monday & Wednesday,
3:30 - 4:20 p.m. & Tutorials
Location: AQ 3159

Instructor: Murray Ross

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.

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:

There is no required text. All required readings are contained in the Course Reader, which is available from the Centre for Distance Education.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Five essay assignments are required and will be graded as follows:

Three five-page essays	60% (20% each)
One ten page essay	30%
One 3-5 page summary	10%