

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### EDUCATION 240: Social Issues in Education

11:30 - 1:30

Instructor: Suzanne de Castell

Lectures: Monday ~~9:30-11:30~~

Office: 623, Building 6

Office Hours: Monday 1:30-4:00

Feel free to arrange individual tutorials. Office: 291-3627 Home: 879-7232

#### Objectives:

The objectives of this course are: 1) to provide information about the theory and practice of schooling in B.C. and Canada; 2) to outline a variety of points of view on social controversies arising within educational practice; and 3) to provide analytical skills essential for the evaluation of those perspectives. 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 contemporary debates on educational issues.

#### Methods:

The course will consist of lectures, guest speakers, films, tutorials, and independent reading and research. In addition to the required texts and suggested readings listed below, students will be provided with extensive handout readings and bibliographies to assist with individual research and discussion papers.

#### Evaluation:

The course mark will be determined on the basis of the following assignments:

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1) 2 short discussion papers | 25% |
| 2) mid-term exam             | 25% |
| 3) seminar participation     | 25% |
| 4) final paper               | 25% |

#### Central Concerns:

The course will focus on various aspects and 'types' of schooling. These broad categories will guide the discussion:

- 1) The nature and function of schooling/ the relationship of school and society.
- 2) The implicit and explicit aims of schooling.
- 3) The overt and covert methods of educators and educational institutions.
- 4) The content of education/ what is taught in schools.

Required Readings:

- reading.*
- 1) Cusick, Philip A. Inside High School (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1973).
  - 2) Martell, George. The Politics of the Canadian Public School (Toronto: Lewis and Samuel, 1974).
  - 3) Selected essays from Nelson, R.W. and D.A. Nock, Reading, Writing and Riches (Kitchner, Ontario: Between the Lines, 1978).
  - 4) Various handouts and reserve readings listed on the course calendar.

Expectations:1) Tutorial Participation and Assignments

Each student is expected to attend tutorials on a regular basis prepared to discuss required readings and lecture topics. The tutorial leaders will detail the format of discussions during the first week; brief tutorial assignments will be required.

2) Research Papers

All students are expected to write two short discussion papers, 2-3 pages in length:

## RESEARCH PAPER #1 (Due Oct. 6)

A discussion generally centering on schooling and socialization; more specific topics will be suggested by tutorial leaders. This paper must involve reviews of at least one reserve (or approved) reading and one article from an educational journal.

## RESEARCH PAPER #2 (Due Nov. 12)

A case study of a B.C. or Canadian social issue in education; this paper involves a theoretically framed discussion of a specific educational topic. Primary research (newspaper articles, public documents, and interviews) is strongly recommended.

Your papers will be evaluated according to these criteria:

- 1) Effective selection and use of relevant source materials.
- 2) Coherently framed discussion of issues and events.
- 3) Clear exposition, correct grammar, punctuation and spelling.

All specific topics must be approved by the tutorial leader, who will be available during scheduled office hours. Optional workshops on the preparation of research papers will be held during the semester. Use of a style manual Strunk and White's Elements of Style is recommended.

3) Mid-term Examination

The mid-term examination will be handed out in class on Nov. 2. This will be a take-home exam, and will require two short essays on topics covered in the course, and definitions of key terms. Due date Nov. 9.

4) Final Paper:

The final paper is due on the last day of class, must be 5-8 typewritten pages in length, and be on topics provided. (See seminar leader for topics.)

Appeal Procedure:

The following appeal procedure is available to you in the event you feel that your work has been unfairly evaluated:

- 1) Consult with the individual who assigned the grade and seek resolution of grievance.
- 2) Submit the work to the instructor for regrading by either the instructor or another tutorial leader.
- 3) If disagreement about the grade continues, the instructor will seek an independent evaluation of the work in question by another member of the Faculty of Education with specific knowledge on the topic.
- 4) If still dissatisfied, the student may appeal the decision to the Chairperson of Undergraduate Studies, Faculty of Education.
- 5) Any student can appeal a decision to the Senate Appeals Board of the University.

Recommended Readings - On Reserve

- 1) Ashworth, Mary The Forces Which Shaped Them
- 2) Cosin, B.R. et al., eds. Schooling and Society\*
- 3) Cusick Inside High School
- 4) Dailly, Eileen Statement by the Minister of Education (1973)
- 5) Dale, R. et al., eds. Schooling and Capitalism\*
- 6) Eisenberg, John and G. MacQueen Don't Teach That
- 7) Freire, Paulo Education for Critical Consciousness
- 8) Illich, Ivan Deschooling Society
- 9) Johnson, F. Henry A History of Public Education in British Columbia
- 10) Kozol, Johnathan The Night is Dark and I am Far from Home
- 11) Laska, John Schooling and Education: Basic Concepts and Problems
- 12) Martell Politics of the Canadian Public School\*
- 13) McGeer, Patrick Statement by the Minister of Education (1976)
- 14) Nelson and Nock, Reading, Writing and Riches
- 15) Neill, A.S. Summerhill
- 16) Ossenberg, R.J. Power and Change in Canada\*
- 17) Porter, John The Measure of Canadian Society
- 18) Postman, W. and C. Weingartner Teaching as a Subversive Activity
- 19) Beck, Jenks, et al., Worlds Apart: New Directions in Sociology of Education
- 20) Wilson, D. and Jones, D. Schooling and Society in 20th Century B.C.
- 21) Jones, D. et al., Shaping the Schools of the Canadian West

\* anthologies of essays by various authors

A more detailed bibliography and list of research sources and materials will be provided for specific topics on request.