

**Social Issues in Education**

Office: EDB 8653

Phone: 268-6578

email: cwb@sfu.ca

Tuesdays 8:30-10:20  
C9000**D02.00****PREREQUISITE:**

None.

This course introduces students to a number of social mechanisms that work inside and outside of educational institutions. The social mechanisms to be studied will be authority, recognition, reproduction, and resistance. The assumption of this course is that one cannot be an effective educator, nor can one be knowledgeable about education in general, without thinking about the ways that social mechanisms inform educational practices. To that end, one of the goals of this course is to encourage fruitful dialogue about social issues in class discussions, and to encourage personal re-valuing of some of the ways that we engage with others in educational institutions. This course is not about a list of facts or certain solutions/outcomes. It is about learning some of the mechanisms that exist in educational situations, and about becoming aware, becoming wide awake, to the social dangers and the social benefits that arise during the educational process.

What do you need to participate? You need to be receptive to various perspectives and thoughts on educational issues. If you can imagine connections between, on the one hand, educational institutions and all of the things that people do therein, and, on the other, the social dynamics that get enacted in the world around us, then you will be prepared to participate in this course. Participation includes voicing your thoughts, completing all of the readings (they are challenging), and doing the required writings and group projects under the guidance of your tutorial instructors.

**COURSE WORK & EVALUATION**

- 30% Final paper based on course readings
- 25% Tutorial participation
- 25% Two reflective writing pieces
- 20% Group presentation

**REQUIRED READING: 5 books, 1 small course reader**Gaines, E., *A Lesson Before Dying*, Vintage Books, 1997Freire, P., *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, Continuum, 2000Gussin Paley, V., *You Can't Say You Can't Play*, Harvard UP, 1992,Fugard, A., *My Children! My Africa!* Theatre Communications Group, 1990Kohl, H., *I Won't Learn From You*, New Press, 1994

Educ 240 custom courseware.