

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

**EDUCATION 240-3**

**SOCIAL ISSUES IN EDUCATION  
(D1.00)**

Fall Semester, 1992  
(September 8–December 4)  
Monday/Wednesday, 2:30–3:20 p.m.  
Location: MPX 7618

Instructor: Dawn Gordon

---

**COURSE OUTLINE**

This course will explore social issues in education. It will focus upon examining formal education as social interaction and institutional development responding to socio/political and historical context. Students will have the chance to reflect critically upon questions such as: How do schools mirror the socio-political and historical values and perspectives of the society? What is the nature and purpose of schooling? Do schools serve to perpetuate or reproduce the status quo, or can they be agents of change? How do schools promote equity, and what are issues of class, gender or cultural and racial bias? How does schooling relate to social issues of modern or post-industrial societies?

Although the course will focus on education in Canada, comparative studies may be introduced. Students will be encouraged to integrate their own personal educational experiences. There are no prerequisites.

**OBJECTIVES AND TOPICS**

The general objectives are:

- to help students to think critically about teaching and learning within a historical, socio/cultural and political context;
- to consider the relationship between education and other major social, political and economic institutions in society.

Topics include:

- sociological approaches to schooling such as functionalism, reproduction, production and critical pedagogy
- education and culture
- immigration and issues of ethnicity and multiculturalism
- racism, class bias, gender and general equity issues in education
- education and social change
- education and community

**COURSE ASSESSMENT**

Journal	25%
Short Paper or Presentation	20%
Mid Term	20%
Term Paper or Final Exam	35%

(PLEASE TURN OVER)

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

- Ashton-Warner, Sylvia. (1963). Teacher. New York: Simon & Schuster.
- Haig-Brown, Celia. (1988). Resistance and Renewal: Surviving the Indian Residential School. Vancouver Pulp Press.
- Gaskell, Jane, et al. (1989). Claiming an Education: Feminism and Canadian Schools. Toronto: Garamond Press
- Curtis, Bruce, et al. (1992). Stacking the Deck: The Streaming of Working-Class Kids in Ontario Schools. Our Schools / Our Selves Educational Foundation. ISBN 0-921908-11-3.

And one of the recommended texts.

Additional articles will be assigned

## **RECOMMENDED TEXTS**

- Kogawa, Joy. (1983). Obasan. Penguin Books
- Holt, John. (1988). 36 Children. Plume Books
- Webber. (1991). Street Kids. University of Toronto Press

**This outline is subject to change.**