

MAY 27, 1980

Course Description

Education 240

Social Issues in Education

Schools are by definition social institutions; they are 'social' in structure, defining roles and relationships, and they exist as institutional components of the larger social system. This course focuses on contemporary schools, and the various 'controversies' which arise from educational ~~pedagogy~~ and practice. We will look at the structure, function, and practice of Canadian schools. Just what are the implications of schooling for students, educators, parents, and public? We will address this question on theoretical and practical levels.

*critically*

Foundational perspectives from the disciplines of sociology, communications, literature, ~~and~~ philosophy will be introduced to help us analyze the Canadian educational context. We will study the relationship of schools to technological society, examining topics such as: the hidden curriculum, social structure and process in the school, power in education, ~~and the classification of different~~ 'paradigms' of schooling.

We will be looking at National educational issues such as: Canadian content of tests, 'family choice' <sup>(n)</sup> and religion in schooling, sexism and racism, (...as well as...)

British Columbia topics like Bill 33 (Independent Schools Support Act), literacy and basic skills acquisition, standardized testing, and declining enrollment. ~~...~~ We will examine social issues both on the level of actual cases, situations, and historical contexts, and on the level of the critical relationship of school to society.

The course format involves lectures, guest speakers, seminar discussion, videotapes, and films. The films tentatively scheduled include: Neill's Summerhill, Men's Lives, Hutterites, The Students' Voice, and Wiseman's High School. A detailed bibliography and class schedule will be provided the first week.

Evaluation: 2 short discussion or research papers (5 pages, typed)  
various short seminar assignments  
final essay examination

Required Texts:

Martell, G. The Politics of the Canadian Public School  
Cusick, P. Inside High School

Recommended: Nelson, R. and Nock, D. Reading, Writing, and Riches  
Eisenberg and MacQueen. Don't Teach That  
Freire, P. Education for Critical Consciousness  
Young, M. Knowledge and Control: New Directions for the Sociology of Education

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