

Fall, 1981

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Suzanne DeCastell

Monday, 11:30 - 1:20
(plus one hour of tutorial)

LOCATION: Campus

The course will examine the function and structure of the school as a social institution, focusing on specific social issues which relate to schooling. A variety of theoretical and analytic perspectives will be introduced to facilitate understanding of these issues.

The course will involve a combination of seminar discussions, lectures, presentations by visiting speakers, film/video, and student presentations. Topics to be covered include:

1. the role of the school in society
2. the practical contemporary structure of the school
3. socialization and indoctrination
4. alternative educational theory and practice
5. the concept of equality of educational opportunity: sexism in school and society
6. equal educational opportunity: racism and classism
8. cultural difference in education: religion in schools
9. the core curriculum in British Columbia/the concept of minimum competency
10. literacy: a social and educational issue
11. the rights of students and teachers
12. the university and social reproduction

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: During the semester the student will be asked to prepare two short discussion papers on different topics. A short critical essay is to be submitted in the last week of the term. A mid-term examination will be required. There will be no final examination for the course.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Martell, G. The Politics of the Canadian School.

Nelson, R. & Nock, David, Reading, Writing and Riches.

Cusick, Phillip, High School.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Jencks, Whitty (ed.), Worlds Apart: Readings in the Sociology of Education.

Jones, D.C., Sheehan, N., & Stamp, R. (ed.), Shaping the Schools of the Canadian West.

Wilson, J.D. & Jones, D.C. (ed.), Schooling and Society in 20th Century British Columbia.

A variety of films will be presented during the semester. Included are: Summerhill, Wiseman's High School, Men's Lives, Hutterites, and others.

A supplementary reading list and detailed outline will be available during the first week of classes.