

EDUCATION 240-3
SOCIAL FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION

Fall Semester, 1988
Tuesdays and Thursdays
10:30 - 11:20 & Tutorials
Location: AQ 3154

Instructor: Mark Selman

PREREQUISITE: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is concerned with the roles and functions of educational institutions and their effects on individuals and society. Some of the major theories for explaining the place of educational institutions in society will be examined and used to explore major areas of controversy in educational theory, research, and practice. Issues to be considered include racism, sexism, standardized testing, the relationship between educational and economic achievement, and the role of the social sciences in educational policy. Special attention will be paid to issues of current interest in British Columbia. The course will be primarily in lecture format with some short films, guest lectures and discussions.

PURPOSE:

To engage students in critical reflection of the purposes, practices and outcomes of educational policies and institutions. Students will learn about the multiplicity of theoretical, political, and ethical perspectives and how the adoption of certain perspectives serves to highlight some aspects of education and to obscure others.

TOPICS:

Social Theories: Functionalism, Conflict theory, and Interpretive Approaches
Ethics and Social Justice
The effects of educational policies and practices on: racism, sexism, social class, and culture
The role of educational research
Issues in B.C.: including privatization, local control, excellence and effectiveness, testing, and thinking skills.

READINGS:

W. Feinberg & J.S. Soltis. (1985). School and Society. Teachers' College Press and selected articles on reserve.

Evaluation will include both essays and exams. Schedule of assignments will be made available at the first class.

EDUCATION 240-3 SOCIAL ISSUES IN EDUCATION

This course introduces students to the study of public education as a social institution in terms of its origins, character, consequences, and possible future. Students are encouraged to explore, analyze and raise questions concerning issues such as the aims and practices of public schooling, education and socialization, streaming and testing, school knowledge and social class, racism and sexism in education.

PREREQUISITE: None.

REQUIRED TEXT:

There is no required text. All required readings are contained in the Course Reader, which is available from the Centre for Distance Education.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Five essay assignments are required. Each assignment is worth 20% of the final grade.