

EDUCATION 240-3
SOCIAL ISSUES IN EDUCATION

Regular Summer Semester, 1991
(May 6 – August 2)
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
plus tutorials
Location: K 8507

Instructor: Murray Ross
Phone: 228-2529

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is concerned with the role and function of schools in society. Some of the major theories for explaining the place of schools in society will be examined and applied to a variety of controversies in education. For the most part the issues to be considered are aspects of the more general problem of “ineffective teachers” and “ineffective schools”. A central aim of the course will be to examine the very idea of problems in education and the role educational research has had in uncovering and solving social problems affecting schools. An additional aim will be to trace out the influence politics and ideology have had on the research community which identifies and attempts to solve educational problems.

OBJECTIVES

The central goal of this course is to engage students in an informed critical discussion of the purposes, processes and outcomes of public schooling, especially as these have been discussed in educational research and policy debates over the last 25 years.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS

1. Education and the ‘War on Poverty’.
2. School effectiveness and teacher effectiveness research.
3. U.S. school reform in the 1980s.
4. School reform in British Columbia, 1975–1990.
5. The Legacy of A Legacy for Learners — the Year 2000.

Evaluation will be based on a term paper, a final exam and very short tutorial assignments. Details regarding these will be made available during the first week of classes.

REQUIRED TEXT

Jane Gaskell, Arlene McLaren, & Myra Novogrodsky. (1989). Claiming an Education: Feminism and Canadian Schools. Our Schools/Ourselves Education Foundation.

Available in class:

- Jerrold R. Coombs. (1984). “Let’s Think Seriously About the Goals of Education and Schooling,” Policy Explorations. Vol. 1.4.
- Harold S. Drysdale. (1985). “The B.C. Independent Schools Debate: Cultural Diversity, Family Choice and Privatization,” Policy Explorations. Vol. 2.5.
- Theresa Richardson. (Ed.). (1988). “Changing Policy Contexts in Education: Background Papers to the B.C. Royal Commission on Education,” Policy Explorations. Vol. 3.3.
- Theresa Richardson. (Ed.). (1989). “The Role of Social Science Research in Policy Making: The Case of the British Columbia Royal Commission on Education,” Policy Explorations. Vol. 4.2/3.
- British Columbia Ministry of Education. (1989). Year 2000: A Curriculum and Assessment Framework for the Future.