

**EDUCATION 240-3:  
SOCIAL ISSUES IN EDUCATION**

Spring Semester, 1988  
January 11 - April 10  
Mondays and Wednesdays  
9:30 - 10:20 + Tutorials

Instructor: Dr. S. de Castell  
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Location: AQ 3159

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**PREREQUISITE**

None

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is concerned with the role and functions of the school as a social institution, and focuses on a variety of issues of which educators, parents, and students should be conscious. Some of these, such as sexism, racism, social-class and the like, are obvious and controversial. Others, such as competition, streaming, centralization of control, classroom and school hierarchies, the promotion of "conformity" in school texts, and corporate control of the school curriculum, will be less obvious. The course integrates films, panel discussion, formal lectures and guest speakers.

**OBJECTIVES**

The central goal of this course is to engage students in an informed critical reconsideration of the purposes, processes and outcomes of public schooling. Students will learn about the structure of the public education system in B.C., about its goals and practices, both historical and current, and about the varied social sub groups public education tries -- and sometimes fails -- to serve.

**OUTLINE OF TOPICS**

The structure of the public educational system; models of schooling, past, present, and future; racism, sexism, social-class bias; socialization vs. education; the core curriculum; streaming, testing and stratification; privatization and the future of public education.

**REQUIRED TEXT**

S. de Castell. Social Issues in Education. Education 240 Study Guide, Simon Fraser University.

Course Reader: Social Issues in Education. Centre for Distance Education, Simon Fraser University.

A detailed course outline and assignment schedule will be made available at the first class. Course texts can be purchased from T.A.'s at the first tutorial.