

Fall Semester 1998

EDUC 240 - 3
Social Issues in Education

S. Edelman

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Location: Northern Lights College,
Fort St. John Campus
Times: Fridays 9:00 am to 12 noon

D02.00

PREREQUISITE

None.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the study of public education as a social institution. Issues covered include the social functions of the school; education and socialization; social, political, economic and cultural influences on the institutions and practices of education.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To encourage students to develop a more profound understanding of the school as a social institution.
2. To study the effects current social issues are having on the school system.
3. To apply a case study approach to the examination of social, political, economic and cultural influences on schools, teachers, students and curriculum.

TOPICS

- The functions and dysfunctions of education
- Critical theory and education
- Academic freedom, human rights issues (e.g., sexism, racism, heterosexism) and class bias in schools
- Schooling, Social Control and Socialization
- "Getting Down to Cases"

Students will explore general, theoretical social issues related to education and apply this knowledge to specific case studies and decision making.

EVALUATION

1. Two Essays (20% each) - 40%
2. Midterm Exam - 25%
3. Final Exam - 25%
4. Participation - 10%

Note: The first essay will be a critical analysis of a selected educational issue. The second essay will involve a self-evaluation profile within the context of a case study analysis.

REQUIRED READINGS

Ghosh, Ratna & Ray, Douglas (eds.) (1995). Social Change and Education in Canada. Toronto, ON: Harcourt Brace.

Wassermann, Selma (1993). Getting Down to Cases. New York, NY: Teachers College Press.

RECOMMENDED (Reserved)

Gatto, John (1992). Dumbing Us Down. Gabriola Island, B.C.: New Society Publishers.

Barlow, Maude & Robertson, Heather-Jane (1994). Class Warfare. Toronto, ON: Key Porter Books

Webber, Marlene (1991). Street Kids. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press.

Knockwood, Isabelle (1992). Out of the Depths. Lockeport, Nova Scotia: Roseway Publishing.