

SOCIOLOGY 77:712

SEMINAR IN SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

MONDAY 4.30 -7.30

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. J. Kwong

OFFICE: 301C Isbister

TELEPHONE: 474-6396

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday, Friday, 10.30-11.30 a.m, or by appointment.

We have spent almost twenty years of our life in school and probably feel quite comfortable within this institution. The objective of this course is to critically examine this social environment we have taken for granted for so long so that we can better understand ourselves, this institution, and its relationship with society. The focus is on the recent developments in Canadian public schools and universities.

This course examines the educational institution from a sociological perspective. The emphasis is on the growing business presence in universities. It begins with a critical examination of the sociological theories of education. It also examines the curriculum, rituals and the official knowledge, teaching and the politics of teaching, students' resistance, the relationship between school and work, and issues of educational equality.

This course description is tentative, other relevant issues of interest to students may be included.

REQUIRED TEXT

Terry Wotherspoon, The Sociology of Education in Canada, Oxford: Oxford University Press 1998.

Neil Tudiver, Universities for Sale, Toronto: James Lorimer 1999

Readings will also be put on reserve.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Philip Brown & Richard Scase, Higher Education and Corporate Realities, London: UCL Press 1994.

Patricia Marchak, Racism, Sexism, and the University, Montreal: McGill Queen's University Press 1996.

Peter McLaren, Schooling as a Ritual Performance, New York: Routledge, 1993.

Alison Taylor, The Politics of Educational Reform in Alberta, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2001

ACADEMIC ETHICS

All assignments have to be carried out individually unless otherwise stated. Students are reminded that plagiarism or any form of cheating on term papers or assignments are serious breaches of academic regulations and those found guilty are subject to serious academic penalty, including suspension or expulsion from the faculty or university. Students are advised to read the university regulations on academic ethics.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Students are expected to attend class and read the assigned chapters ahead of time so that they can participate intelligently in class discussions. Students will be assigned to present the readings in class and the rest of the students are expected to provide critical comments on the readings.
2. Students are required to do two book reports and one term paper. The book report should be about 3-5 double spaced typed pages each. The books should be chosen in consultation with the professor. The term paper is about 15-20 double-spaced typed pages each. The topics have to be approved by the professor. Students should use the referencing style in the Chicago Manual of Style. Each paper is worth 35 percent.

The first book report has to be submitted on September 24, the second on October 8. A draft of the paper should be available for distribution to the members in class by October 29, and the final draft handed in by Nov 26. **LATE ASSIGNMENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Class participation/presentation 30 percent

Book report 15 percent each

Term paper 40 percent

The following letter/percentage scale will be used:

A+ 90-100 Exceptional

A 80-89 Excellent

B+ 76-79 Very good

B 70-75 Good

C+ 66-69 Satisfactory

C 60-65 Adequate

D 50-59 Marginal

F 49 & below Failure

November 14 is the last date for voluntary withdrawal without academic penalty.