Course Description

The focus of this course is on the sociological study of education in Canadian society. Applying different empirical and theoretical perspectives on education, we will do the following throughout this course:

- trace the historical development and organization of education in Canada,
- investigate patterns of educational participation,
- discuss the socialization function of schools,
- debate the relationship between school and work,
- analyze the role of education in the reproduction of social inequality, and
- learn about contemporary challenges facing education systems
- compare the Canadian education system to other systems (international)

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Interpret historical conditions that have led to the development of current education systems and institutions.
- Challenge common-sense assumptions about school success and failure.
- Compare and contrast different sociological and theoretical perspectives regarding the schooling experiences and outcomes of different social groups.
- Analyze the relationships between educational institutions and wider social structures.
- Evaluate critically different reasons for educational reform.
Required Text(s)


2. Additional readings available through OWL

Method of Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation and Professionalism</th>
<th>15 %</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>30 %</td>
<td>Feb 11 in-class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Assignment</td>
<td>20 %</td>
<td>March 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35 %</td>
<td>April exam period – TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
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Evaluation Breakdown

Written Evaluations: All written submissions (both formal and informal) are marked based on level of critical analysis, succinct arguments and overall organization of your thoughts. While grammar is not specifically marked, it will influence the delivery of your argument, so careful editing is expected. The course material is a foundation and a motivator for critical reflection on education. I expect that you will move beyond the course material, expanding and offering new ways of thinking about education or new issues that relate to our course.

Participation and Professionalism

As a student, you expect me, your professor, to be professional. You expect that I will be there, be prepared and be ready to expand on the material and that I will communicate and get work back to you in a timely manner, with constructive feedback. If for some reason I am unable to do so, you would expect that I have a valid reason and that I let you know as soon as possible, with a plan on how the work will be completed.

As your instructor, I expect the same from you. I expect that you will be in class. You will be ready to engage and connect with your classmates. You will push to achieve the best possible outcome. In any 'job', you are expected to be there, act professional, be respectful, to go 'beyond' and to contribute to
your team. Post-secondary education is one part of your professional career, so I encourage you to treat it as such.

In OUR class, participation is all-encompassing. **It means being there, it means speaking up when you have something to contribute, it means working in groups / partners when asked and it means contributing online.** This mark is 'easy' as long as you are engaged! You want to constantly challenge yourself and others to think about the material and the world around us.

If you are actively engaged and in touch with your instructor, your grades will improve, your experience in the class will be positive and the classroom will be much more interesting!

**Examinations:** All examinations may include a combination of m/c, short answer or essay style questions. A detailed breakdown and class reviews will be provided before each exam. These exams are not cumulative, but you are expected to retain and be able to apply theory throughout the course.

**Group Assignment**

Your group project will be to identify an area of interest within education that has sociological significance and research as a group the issue / topic. As a group you will design a visual presentation using PowerPoint, Prezi, or another related software program that will be briefly discussed in class on March 25, as well as posted online for others to review. More information will be provided in class on how this project will work online as well as in-class.

**How To Contact Me**

Email: lbarr2@uwo.ca

Office: SSC 5319  (shared space)

OWL – forums

**Important Policies**

**Policies for Assignment Deadlines:**

**A Note on Plagiarism:**

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).
Plagiarism Checking:
Students may be required to submit their assignments to turnitin.com on the class WebCT website after they are completed. These papers will be subject to submission for textual originality.

Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:
Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness
Western’s policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm. Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation:
http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:
Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar’s website:
http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.