EDUCATION 559: SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION
Fall, 2013

Instructor: Richard M. Ingersoll
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office hours - Tuesdays 2:00-4:00 in 415 GSE, or by appointment

GSE Office: room 415, 3700 Walnut St. - Graduate School of Education - 215-573-5674
CPRE Office: room 517, suite 560, 3440 Market St. - Science Center - 215-573-0700, ext. 226

Class Hours and Location: Wednesdays 1:30-4:30 in the GSE building, room 400.

Course Description:
This is an introductory, masters-degree-level course. It provides a broad survey overview of major perspectives concerned with how societal forces have shaped the purposes, processes and organization of schools. The objective is to impart to students a grasp of the historical and social foundations of the US education system. This includes a variety of perspectives on education – traditional, progressive and egalitarian. The primary focus will be on elementary and secondary schools in the U.S.

Required Readings:
There is 1 required text and it is available for purchase at the Penn Center Bookstore (34th and Sansom St.) and has also been placed on reserve at Van Pelt’s Rosengarten Reserve Library: Jonathan Kozol, Savage Inequalities.

In addition, a set of required readings are available for purchase as a course pack from the Campus Copy Center (3907 Walnut St.). These readings are listed below in the Course Outline.

Class attendance: is required; those missing 4 or more classes will lose up to 10% off their grade.

Use of Laptops/Mobile Devices in Class: is acceptable only for classroom purposes. While in class, please refrain from web browsing, emailing, etc. for non-classroom purposes.

Grading Criteria:
50% -- Take-Home Mid-Term Exam
50% -- Take-Home Final Exam

Grading Scale:
A+: 97-100
A : 94-96
A- : 90-93
B+: 87-89
B : 84-86
B- : 80-83
C+: 77-79
C : 74-76
C- : 70-73
Etc.

Course Outline: (Note: This schedule is tentative and subject to change).

Week 1 (Aug 28) The Purposes of Schooling

Kirst - chapters 1-4 from Who Controls our Schools?

Week 2 (Sept 4) The Traditional Perspective

Kirst - chapters 1-4 from Who Controls our Schools? (continued)
Dreeben – “The Contribution of Schooling to the Learning of Norms”

Week 3 (Sept 11) The Progressive Perspective - 1

Henry - "Golden Rule Days: American Schoolrooms."
Gracey - "Learning the Student Role: Kindergarten as Academic Boot Camp"

Week 4 (Sept 18) The Progressive Perspective - 2

Becker - selections from Making the Grade
Neill - selections from Summerhill: a Radical Approach to Child Rearing.

Week 5 (Sept 25) The Inequality Perspective - 1

Kozol - Savage Inequalities

Week 6 (Oct 2) The Inequality Perspective - 2

Rist – “Student Social Class and Teacher Expectations.”
Sadker & Sadker – “Sexism in the Classroom: From Grade School to Graduate School”

**Week 7 (Oct 9) Review (Take-Home Midterm Exam Distributed)**

**Week 8 (Oct 16) The Neo-Traditional Perspective – 1 (Midterm Exam Due)**

Coleman - "Families and Schools."
Clark – “The High School and the University: What Went Wrong in America, Parts 1-2"

**Week 9 (Oct 23) The Neo-Traditional Perspective - 2**

Brewer et al. - “Detracking America’s Schools: The Reform Without Cost?”
Murray & Herrnstein - “What’s Really Behind the SAT-Score Decline?”

**Week 10 (Oct 30) The Teacher-Deficit Perspective**

Thomas & Wingert – “Why We Must Fire Bad Teachers.”
Fox – “Values Are Not in The Curriculum.”

**Week 11 (Nov 6) The Teacher Deprofessionalization Perspective –1**

McPherson - "Natural Enemies: Parents and Teachers"

**Week 12 (Nov 13) The Teacher Deprofessionalization Perspective –2**

Grant – “The Teacher’s Predicament.”
Cuban & Tyack – “Lessons from History”
Week 13 (Nov 20)  The Teacher Deprofessionalization Perspective - 3

Ingersoll – “Four Myths about America’s Teacher Quality Problem”

Week 14 (Nov 27)  Thanksgiving Break – No Class

Week 15 (Dec 4) The Teacher Professionalization Perspective

National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future - No Dream Denied: A Pledge To America’s Children.
Beth Hawkins – “Teacher Cooperatives”

Week 16 (Dec 11)  Review and Take-Home Final Exam

Week 17 (Dec 18)  Final Exam Due - No Class