**Instructor:** Richard M. Ingersoll  
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Office hours - Wednesdays 1:30-3:30 in 415 GSE, or by appointment  
GSE Office: room 415, 3700 Walnut St. - Graduate School of Education - 215-573-5674  
CPRE Office: room 560-17, suite 560, 3440 Market St. - Science Center - 215-573-5674

**Class Hours and Location:** Mondays 1:00-4:00 in the GSE building, room 007.

**Course Description:**
This is an introductory course. It provides a broad survey overview of major perspectives concerned with how society and social 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, such as traditional, progressive, conservative and egalitarian. The primary focus will be on elementary and secondary schools in the U.S.

**Required Readings:**
There is 1 required book – Jonathan Kozol’s *Savage Inequalities* – and it is available for purchase at the Penn Bookstore (36th and Walnut St.) and has also been placed on reserve at Van Pelt’s Rosengarten Reserve Library:

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.

Also on library reserve are seven books from which a number of the readings are drawn:  

**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. I would like to avoid having a situation where I am forced to confront individuals in class for this behavior.

And, please consider the following:


**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).

(Outlines of the weekly lectures on the readings are available online via Canvas)

**Week 1  (Sept 10)  The Purposes of Schooling**

Vollmer - *The Ever Increasing Burden on America’s Public Schools*
Kirst - chapters 1-4 from *Who Controls our Schools?*

**Week 2  (Sept 17)  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 24)  The Progressive Perspective - 1

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

Week 4 (Oct 1)  The Progressive Perspective - 2

   Becker - selections from Making the Grade
   Neill - selections from Summerhill: a Radical Approach to Child Rearing.
   Gormisky - “School With No Tests, No Grades, No Teachers.”

Week 5 (Oct 8)  The Inequality Perspective - 1

   Kozol - Savage Inequalities
   Boccella – “Delco Educators Fear Tax Shift Proposal.”

Week 6 (Oct 15)  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 22)  Review and Take-Home Midterm Exam Distributed

Week 8 (Oct 29)  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 (Nov 5)  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 (Nov 12) The Teacher-Deficit Perspective

   Thomas & Wingert – “Why We Must Fire Bad Teachers.”
   Fox – “Values Are Not in The Curriculum.”
Week 11 (Nov 19)  The Teachers’ Perspective –1

McPherson - "Natural Enemies: Parents and Teachers"

Week 12 (Nov 26)  The Teachers’ Perspective –2

Grant – “The Teacher’s Predicament.”
Gorenstein; Slobodzian; Conn - Philadelphia Inquirer
Cuban & Tyack – “Lessons from History”

Week 13 (Dec 3)  The Teacher Professionalization Perspective - 1

Ingersoll – “Misdiagnosing America’s Teacher Quality Problem”
Ingersoll & Collins – “Accountability, Control and Teachers’ Work in American Schools.”

Week 14 (Dec 10) The Teacher Professionalization Perspective - 2

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

Week 15 (Dec 17)  Review and Take-Home Final Exam Distributed

Week 16 (Dec 24) Final Exam Due - No Class