



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Department of Educational Studies**

Faculty of Education  
Education Centre at Ponderosa Commons  
6445 University Boulevard  
Vancouver B.C. V6T 1Z2  
CANADA

Tel: 604-822-5374  
Fax: 604-822-4244

Web: <http://www.edst.educ.ubc.ca>

**EDST 596A Philosophy and Educational Policy: Neo-liberalism**

EDST 596 introduces students to the economic and political rationalities of *neo-liberalism* in relation to competing practices of *education policy*. The seminar begins with a historical review of both rationalities and then surveys contemporary neo-liberal expansions into schooling, curriculum, teaching and learning, and higher and adult education. The seminar intersects with literatures on 'globalizing educational policy' and reviews some of the processes and effects of neo-liberal in Canada and elsewhere. The seminar notes how neo-liberalism has constructed policy mechanisms to enforce its economic and political rationalities (e.g., rankings, accountability schemes, markets), including the re-design of educational discourses related to choice, freedom, performance, austerity, deregulation, self-development / self-determination. Finally, the course examines how ideas of educational equity and equality have been reshaped by neo-liberalism.

Topics include: educational markets; knowledge and academic capitalism; subject commodifications (racial, ethnic, gendered, dis-ability, etc.); multiculturalism and 'post-race', enterprising and entrepreneurial subjects; public / private partnerships; policy networks; audit, performative, and surveillance cultures; and the privatization of difference.

Authors include (alphabetical): Michael Apple, Wendy Brown, Stephen Ball, Bronwyn Davies, Angela Davis, Gilles Deleuze, Nancy Fraser, Michel Foucault, Milton Friedman, Paul Gilroy, Henry Giroux, David Harvey.

The course welcomes students from all fields and disciplines, and there are no prerequisites.

Thursdays  
January 4 - March 29  
1:00 - 4:00pm

P. Taylor Webb, Associate Professor  
taylor[dot]webb[at]ubc[dot]ca

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