



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Department of Educational Studies

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EDST 531 The Politics of Educational Governance: Macro and Micro Perspectives

EDST 531 introduces students to the conceptions and practices of *educational governance*, and in relation to ideas of *education policy*. The seminar reviews the history of education governance in Canada and elsewhere (i.e., comparatively), with a focus on how the K-12 and higher education sectors are organized and managed. The seminar examines the politics involved with organizing and managing these sectors by understanding how the idea of *power* is conceptualized and utilized. Rather than understanding the expression of power as a locatable and ‘top-down’ expression, the course examines multiple conceptions of power, including ‘elitist’ and ‘pluralist’ conceptions, while contrasting traditional notions of governance with the idea of ‘governmentality’. The course assists students to understand how educational policy is a constructed and negotiated practice, framed from the many ways educational authority is conceived and legitimated (e.g. leadership, resistance, etc.) and how educational influence is practiced within fluid and politicized conditions (e.g., economic, racial, gender, class, etc.). The first-half of the course introduces students to ideas of globalization, internationalization, neoliberalism, and network governance, and illustrates how these ‘macro’ governing forces are produced and reinforced through ‘globalized education policies’ (e.g., rankings, accountability schemes, markets, etc., including ‘supranational’ organizations like the World Bank, IMF, and OECD). The second-half of the seminar introduces students to the ‘micropolitics’ of educational governance, and provides students with approximately 100 different strategies people use in educational organizations (e.g., schools, academia, etc.) to enact local and/or ‘grassroots’ expressions of educational politics. Finally, the course examines some of the effects that politics has on the education sector, policy, and its participants.

Topics include: globalization; internationalization; neoliberalism; network governance; organizational politics (aka ‘micropolitics’); audit, performative, and surveillance cultures; and the micropolitics of subjectivity.

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

Wednesdays
September 6 - November 29
4:30 - 7:30pm

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