

**FOUNDATIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
(EDST 521)**



(Winter II: January 4 – April 5, 2012; Wednesdays 16:30-19:30, Ponderosa F 201)
[Break 18:00-18:15]

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A. COURSE OUTLINE

The course examines the historical, philosophical, sociological, cultural, political, and economic foundations of higher education. It critically examines various disciplinary and comparative perspectives on higher education operating in various regional, geopolitical, and national contexts. The course offers participants with an opportunity to reflect on the forces that shape higher education in general, and in Canada more particularly.

The course introduces key institutions and institutional dynamics of higher education. It focuses on the experiences of students, faculty, and staff from different social backgrounds. Attention is granted to dynamics of organizational change, their power underpinnings, and the extent to which they affect institutional growth, the politics of inclusion and exclusion, and the conflicts that shape the development of higher education in diverse national and regional contexts.

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

EDST 521 is designed to assist participants:

- **acquaint** themselves with various intellectual and research traditions prevalent in the study of higher education, including major works in this area;
- **reflect** on the local, regional, geopolitical, and global forces and dynamics that shape the development and differentiation of higher education institutions;
- **develop** a critical understanding of multifaceted power dynamics underpinning the organization of the academic workplace, the stratification and mobility opportunities of academic labour, the visibility of disciplinary fields, and the experiences of students.