

# EDST 504a: History of Educational Policy

**Summer Term 1 (May 6<sup>th</sup> – June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019).**  
(Midterm break: June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>)

**Monday & Wednesday, 4:30 – 7:30 PM**

**Dr. Jason Ellis**

“An education system designed in the very different circumstances of an earlier century can’t possibly always meet the challenges students face – both now and in the future.” – *B.C. Education Plan, 2013.*

Every educational policy has roots in the past. More than that, policy makers invoke history all the time. Think ‘back-to-basics’ curriculum for example, which appeals to an instructional past that may – or may not – have existed. Or, consider the quotation above, where past history is used to justify future policy change in British Columbia.

EDST 504a will take a three-part approach to the history of educational policy:

- I. We will survey the historical development of educational policies.
- II. We will learn how to evaluate policy makers’ historical claims.
- III. We will learn how to conduct original historical research and to usefully apply that research to analyze or recommend educational policy.

The course focuses on the history of twenty-first-century policy debates. Weekly topics in Summer 1 2019 will include:

- The history of SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) education policy
- The history of school choice and neo-liberal educational policies
- The history of Indigenous control of Indigenous education
- The history of post-secondary internationalization policy and reform
- The history of high-stakes testing
- The history of school boards and local democracy

**Please contact the instructor if you wish to have more details about the course. ([j.ellis@ubc.ca](mailto:j.ellis@ubc.ca))**

\*EDST 504a can be used to fulfill the requirement for a SCPE (Society, Culture, and Politics in Education) elective, and EDAL (Educational Administration) elective, or a general elective for students in Educational Studies and other graduate departments.

All students are welcome. Previous experience in history courses is not a requirement for this course.