



Course Information

Prefix & number	Title
EDST 493	Introduction to the Study of Higher Education
Instructor	Prerequisites or restrictions (if any)
Dr. Lesley Andres	None.

Focus or Content

Why do we in North America pay tuition?
Why are students in some countries not charged tuition fees?
How are university rankings used to make policy decisions?
Why are some post-secondary institutions public and others are private?
How does the structure and organization of higher education differ in Canada, the USA, Europe, Asia and elsewhere?
Why do some universities have stringent admission procedures and others do not?

As a current student attending a higher education institution, exploring these and other questions will help you understand the inner workings of higher education systems from a comparative perspective.

This course is intended to provide an introduction to the study of higher education. The field of higher education focuses on the study of all facets of institutions of higher learning. That is, it is the study of the institutions of higher education and everything that happens within them and in relation to the larger society.

No previous knowledge of this topic is required.

Goals, Objectives or Learning Outcomes

The course is organized into four modules and covers the following topics:

1. an introduction to the study of higher education, including a brief history of higher education and an overview of Canadian systems of higher education;
2. the structure and organization of higher education, including public, private, and mixed goods, public/private, non-profit/for-profit higher education, elite higher education;
3. access to higher education, including an examination of concepts central to participation and opportunities; and
4. internationalization of higher education where we address topics such as student mobility, university rankings, and global competition.

Assignments or Assessment Process

Weekly participation in online discussions; mini assignments; final paper.

Notes/Other

This course is online asynchronous.