THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Department of Educational Studies
Faculty of Education

Course Information

Prefix & number	Title
EDST 577	Social Contexts of Educational Policy, Politics and Practice

Instructor	Prerequisites or restrictions (if any)
D. Kelly	Restricted for VEL6 Cohort

Focus or Content

This course is an elective in the VEL6 cohort (MEd in Educational Administration and Leadership), with the theme: "Inquiry, capacity building and leadership for Indigeneity, equity and inclusion." In this seminar we will examine such questions as: What is educational policy? Can research help solve social problems? If so, how: Through finding technical solutions to social problems or advocacy? Should policy analysts take social problems as given, or should they study the social construction of these problems? Which voices are dominant and which ones absent in the educational policy process? Who benefits from educational policy and who loses? What are the intended and unintended consequences of educational policy? In the course, we will examine the process of policy making as well as some persistent themes in educational policy (such as equalizing opportunity, addressing persistent inequalities, providing more choice) through case studies of specific policy issues and the social contexts from which they emerge.

Goals, Objectives or Learning Outcomes

EDST 577 is designed to provide learning opportunities that will assist participants to:

- Explore the everyday of policy in your lives;
- Examine educators as policy actors;
- Understand policy and policy activism;
- Explore current educational policy debates;
- Examine alternative framing of educational policy;
- Understand the connection between politics and policy and the competing interests involved in the educational policy arena;
- Analyze global policies within local contexts;
- Be familiar with different approaches to educational policy research, including from Indigenous perspectives

Assignments or Assessment Process

Assignment #1: Education Policy Autobiography (30% of final mark)
Short Essay (5 typed, double-spaced pages; maximum of 1,250 words)

Assignment #2: Website Policy Comparison Assignment (35% of final mark)
Short Essay (5 typed, double-spaced pages; maximum of 1,250 words)

Assignment #3: Final Assignment (35% of final mark)
Short Essay (5 typed, double-spaced pages; maximum of 1,250 words)

Use the final assignment to synthesize what you have learned in the course, either by (a) applying it to a policy document of your choosing or (b) analyzing and reflecting upon a set of readings, experiences, concepts, and beliefs.

Notes/Other