



## Course Information

Prefix & number	Title
EDST 504a	<b>History of Educational Policy</b> (W1 2024 Thu 430-730 PM)
Instructor	Prerequisites or restrictions (if any)
Jason Ellis	None. This course is a SCPE elective, but is open to all students.

### Focus or Content

This course has three parts:

Part 1 **surveys the history of educational policy and policymaking**. Topics include: origins of public education; Indian Residential Schools; equality and equity; expansion of post-secondary education; Indigenous self-government and education; school choice.

Part 2 **teaches students how to critically examine historical claims** that policymakers make all the time, but seldom make well. (Think “back-to-basics” curriculum. Back to when?)

Part 3 **teaches students historical and policy concepts and research methods** to enable them to research the history of an educational policy that interests them. Concepts include: “the grammar of schooling”; policy cycles and institutional trends; social science research for public policy; how historians and policymakers “miscommunicate.”

### Goals, Objectives or Learning Outcomes

Together students and the instructor will:

- Part 1. Survey the development of educational policies and policymaking processes as they have changed over time, primarily in Canadian and Indigenous contexts;
- Part 2. Learn how to critically examine historical claims that policymakers make all the time to justify their policy decisions;
- Part 3. Learn to use historical concepts and methods to do original research that documents, analyzes, evaluates, and recommends educational policy for the present.

### Assignments or Assessment Process

Methods presentation: 25 %

Policy fragment analysis: 25 %

Research essay or research article, single- or multi-authored (two or more classmates): 40 %

Seminar participation: 10 %

### Notes/Other

The instructor will set the topics and readings for parts 1 & 2. For part 3, the instructor and students will work together to co-construct the syllabus, choosing topics and readings based on students’ research interests.