



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Department of Educational Studies

Faculty of Education

Course Information

Prefix & number	Title
536	Higher Education Systems in Canada
Instructor	Prerequisites or restrictions (if any)
Sharon Stein	N/A

Focus or Content

A “system” of higher education (HE) often refers to a national strategy or other coordinated effort to provide HE within a given country. In Canada, and in other federal systems like the US, we may also refer to a HE system as that of a province, state, or territory. In this course, we will look at HE topics and trends on a national level, as well as at a provincial/ territorial level. Meanwhile, we will note how emerging developments in internationalization, Indigenization, and decolonization challenge seemingly “settled” geographies.

The intention of the course is not to offer a comprehensive examination of all relevant issues in the Canadian HE landscape, which would be a nearly impossible task. Instead, the course will offer a broad overview of this landscape, a detailed view of some of its key dimensions and recent developments, and an opportunity to develop the critical literacies that will enable students to continue your own learning beyond the course.

Goals, Objectives or Learning Outcomes

Readings, discussions, assignments, and activities are meant to support and equip students to:

- Develop a conceptual understanding of what higher education systems are;
- Have a basic understanding of Canadian higher education systems;
- Become familiar with some of the scholarly literature about higher education;
- Discuss current issues related to higher education in Canada and more generally, with a particular emphasis on the challenges, complexities, and contradictions involved in change;
- Critically evaluate and make connections between different approaches to the study and practice of higher education;
- Consider how internationalization and Indigenization efforts relate to national and provincial/territorial priorities and strategies; and
- Reflect on one’s own place within a higher education system.

Assignments or Assessment Process

Reading quizzes, participation in synchronous Zoom discussion, mini-papers, final project

Notes/Other

This course is open to all graduate students with an interest in higher education in Canada. This is a required course for the MA in EDST with a concentration in Higher Education, the MEd in Higher Education, and the Graduate Certificate in Higher Education.