

**EDUCATION 544: SCHOOL AND SOCIETY**  
Fall, 2008

**Instructor:** Richard M. Ingersoll

rmi@gse.upenn.edu

office hours - Wednesdays 2:00-4:00 in 415 GSE, or by appointment

GSE Office: room 415, 3700 Walnut St. - Graduate School of Education - 215-573-5674

CPRE Office: room 531, suite 560, 3440 Market St. - Science Center - 215-573-0700, ext. 226

**Class Hours and Location:** Mondays 4:30-7:00 in the Nursing Education Building, room 119-2

**Course Description:**

This is an introductory masters-degree level survey course. It provides an overview of theory and research concerned with the relationship between schooling and society. The objective is to impart to students a grasp of the major ideas, themes and research traditions concerned with the societal foundations of education. This includes both mainstream and critical theories of how social forces shape the purposes, processes and organization of schools. In addition, the course will explore a number of current education policy issues. The primary focus will be on elementary and secondary schools in the U.S.

**Required Readings:**

There are 2 required texts and both are available for purchase at the Penn Center Bookstore (34<sup>th</sup> and Sansom St.) and have also been placed on reserve at Van Pelt's Rosengarten Reserve Library:

Jonathan Kozol, Savage Inequalities.

Richard Ingersoll, Who Controls Teachers Work?

In addition, a set of required readings are available for purchase as a bulk pack from the Campus Copy Center (3907 Walnut St.). These readings are listed below in the Course Outline.

**Grading Criteria:**

50% -- Take Home Mid-term Exam

50% -- Take Home Final Exam

Class attendance is required; those missing 4 or more classes will lose up to 10% off their grade.

**Course Outline:** (Note: This schedule is tentative and subject to change).

*Week 1 (Sept. 8) The Purposes of Schooling*

Kirst - chapters 1-4 from Who Controls our Schools?

*Week 2 (Sept. 15) The Traditional Perspective*

Durkheim – “Education: Its Nature and Role.”

Dreeben – “The Contribution of Schooling to the Learning of Norms.”

*Week 3 (Sept. 22) The Progressive Perspective - 1*

Henry - "Golden Rule Days: American Schoolrooms."

Gracey - "Learning the Student Role: Kindergarten as Academic Boot Camp"

*Week 4 (Sept. 29) The Progressive Perspective - 2*

Becker - selections from Making the Grade

Neill - selections from Summerhill: a Radical Approach to Child Rearing.

*Week 5 (Oct. 6) The Egalitarian Perspective - 1*

Kozol - Savage Inequalities

*Week 6 (Oct. 13) The Egalitarian Perspective - 2*

Rist – “Student Social Class and Teacher Expectations.”

Sadker and Sadker – “Sexism in the Classroom: From Grade School to Graduate School”

Anyon – “Social Class and the Hidden Curriculum of Work.”

*Week 7 (Oct. 20) Review and Midterm Exam*

*Week 8 (Oct. 27) The Neo-Traditional Perspective - 1*

Clark – “The High School and the University: What Went Wrong in America, Parts 1-2”  
Coleman - "Families and Schools."  
Segal – “Roadblocks in Reforming Corrupt Agencies: The Case of New York City School Custodians.”

*Week 9 (Nov. 3) The Neo-Traditional Perspective - 2*

Brewer et al. - “Detracking America’s Schools: The Reform Without Cost?”

*Week 10 (Nov. 10) The Teachers’ Perspective - 1*

McPherson - "Natural Enemies: Parents and Teachers" in Small Town Teacher  
Grant – “The Teacher’s Predicament.”

*Week 11 (Nov. 17) No Class*

*Week 12 (Nov. 24) The Teachers’ Perspective - 2*

Ingersoll - Who Controls Teachers Work? (especially chapters: 1,3,5,6)

*Week 13 (Dec. 1) The Teachers’ Perspective - 3*

National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future - No Dream Denied: A Pledge To America’s Children.

*Week 14 (Dec. 8) Make-Up Class*

*Week 15 (Dec. 15) Review and Final Exam*