

2009-3



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
THINKING OF THE WORLD

EDUCATION 817 (G031)
Policy Processes
(Enroll # 12206)

Fall Semester 2009	Instructor:	Dr. Lee Southern
Meeting Dates:	Sept. 11/12/25/26	Office:
	Oct. 16/17/30/31	
	Nov. 13/14/27/28	Telephone:
Times:	Fridays: 4:30 – 8:30 pm	
	Saturdays: 8:30 – 4:30 pm	Email:
Location:	SFU Surrey	lsouther@sfu.ca
Room:	SUR 4010 (except Sept. 25/26 in SUR 3270)	

COURSE RATIONALE

For the purpose of improving professional practice, this course examines the application of theoretical frameworks to educational policy development and implementation as a means of gaining a better understanding of how education organizations and systems operate.

DESCRIPTION

The course explores the relations among the concepts of influence, the nature of politics and policy beginning at the macro-societal level and progressing through to the provincial, district and school levels of K-12 education in BC. Three main questions are addressed: first, what is policy?; second, how does it get developed and implemented?; and third, what are the exigent policy issues in BC K-12 education?

GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

To learn about the role of policy processes in education organizational behaviour.

To learn about the current major policy issues facing BC K-12 education.

To become better prepared intellectually to participate in policy development in one's professional context.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Robert A. Dahl, Bruce Stinebrickner, Modern Political Analysis, 6th edition, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 2006

SFU Courseware: EDUC 817 Policy Processes, 2009

Clark, J.A., A Guide to School Legislation in British Columbia, 5th Edition, British Columbia School Trustees Association, 2007

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADES

Class Participation: 15%

Graduate students are expected to attend all sessions having completed the required reading and to participate actively in class dialogue.

Article critique: 15% [due: 16 October]

A 1-2 page critique of an article from the required readings or elsewhere in the policy literature preferably related to the subject of the research paper.

Research Subject Presentation: 20% [to be scheduled]

A 10-15 minute presentation to class followed by a 10 minute question and comment class dialogue focussed on your research policy question/issue and rationale.

Research Policy Paper: 50% [due: 15 November]

An exploration of a policy issue of professional interest including definition of a policy question/issue and its rationale, analysis of the policy question/issue and recommendations for next steps.

A class session topic schedule will be provided at the first session.

ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

All members of the University community share the responsibility for the academic standards and reputation of SFU. Academic honesty is a condition of continued membership in the university community. Please review the Policy at <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-02.htm>