

# Current Topics and Trends in Education Section 80

## SOCI 148

Spring 2023 3 Unit(s) 01/25/2023 to 05/15/2023 Modified 01/23/2023

### Contact Information

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#### Synchronous Online Course

Mondays 12:00-1:15

On Zoom here: <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/83514744457> (<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/83514744457>)

#### Office Hours

Mondays 2-3 p.m. on Zoom:

<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/92544100827>

### Course Description and Requisites

Analysis of the current environment of sociology of education from both a macro and micro perspective through sociological, political, philosophical and economic perspectives. Includes the study of qualitative descriptions and quantitative trends of contemporary issues in the field of sociology of education.

Letter Graded

### Program Information

#### Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to think sociologically about the relationship between social structure, interaction, identities, and inequalities.
2. Students will be able to identify and explain major sociological theories and apply them to everyday life.
3. Students will be proficient in qualitative and quantitative research design, data collection and data analysis.
4. Students will be proficient in oral and written communication skills appropriate to the discipline.
5. Students will be able to practice sociology as educated and civically engaged persons.

### Course Goals

This course will examine the institution of education and its historical and current relationship to and with society. The course will draw on sociological, political, philosophical and economic perspectives of current topics within the field of Sociology of Education. The intent of the course is to analyze the current environment of sociology of education from both a macro and micro perspective. To this end, material will be based on both qualitative descriptions and quantitative trends of contemporary issues in the field of Sociology of Education. Part of this process will involve an analysis of the way in which certain issues become the focus of public

policy while other issues are absent from this arena. We live in changing times. This course addresses how and why and the field of Education navigates uncertainty. Due to the nature of this course, readings will include classic and published sociological readings along with recent less formal, publications on relevant events.

In the process of examining the current terrain of Sociology of Education, the course will address a number of other relevant topics, including class inequities, privilege, racism, sexism, racial segregation, social movements, education for change, academic freedom, digital redlining, education and technology and schooling and violence.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Institutional Outcomes	Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	Possible Assessment Methods
Critical Thinking	Define the core terms and the major theoretical approaches discussed within class and apply these concepts to various situations within the contemporary schooling system (Sociology PLO 2).	Class discussion, presentations, open-ended questions on memos
Written and Communication Skills	Identify and explain major sociological theories and apply them to everyday life within the realm of the contemporary schooling system (Sociology PLOs 2 and 4).	Memos and presentations
Evaluate Empirical Sociological Research	Read and evaluate current and empirical sociological research related to the contemporary schooling system (Sociology PLO 3).	Presentations and memos
Acting as Civically Engaged Persons: Valuing Diversity and Having Global Awareness	Understand how identities such as race, class, gender, geography and sexual orientation contribute to a range of social experiences and social perspectives within the contemporary schooling system (Sociology PLO 5).	Class discussion, group work (including possible group assignments), memos and presentations
Self-Awareness	Think sociologically about the relationship between social structure, interaction, identities, and inequalities, particularly as it relates to the field of the contemporary schooling system (Sociology PLO 1).	Class discussion, memos, open-ended questions

## Course Materials

There is not a textbook required for this course. Please see course schedule for the readings and media required for each module. All readings and media will be made available online via Canvas.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

**Reading.** I expect all of the material to be read with a critical eye. Give yourself adequate time after each reading to reflect on the author's central argument(s) and take notes.

**Media viewing.** I expect all of the media material to be viewed with a critical eye. Give yourself adequate time after each media/movie to reflect on the central argument(s) and take notes.

**Assignments.** There will be at least one assignment due each module throughout the semester.

**Quizzes.** There may be quizzes assigned throughout the semester.

**Dialoguing.** I expect you to show up to the synchronous online Zoom meetings prepared to discuss course material.

**Facilitation.** Please expect to facilitate an informed conversation amongst your peers.

**Participation.** Active participation in class discussion and classroom activities is expected.

## ✓ Grading Information

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Grades will be based on 350 points throughout the semester and calculated as follows:

331-350+ = A
315 - 330 = A-
303 - 314 = B +
293 - 302 = B
280 - 292 = B -
268 - 279 = C +
258 - 267 = C
245 - 257 = C -
233 - 244 = D +
223 - 232 = D
209 - 222 = D -
000 - 208 = F

## University Policies

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Per [University Policy S16-9 \(http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page \(https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.