

SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION

ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-17

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1. LESSONS

1. Education in the knowledge society. The need for a change. New demands upon citizenship and labor.
2. Alternative Schools. Democratic education. What does it mean to be a democratic school? Some examples.
3. School performance. International evaluations (PISA, TIMMS, TALIS...). Cultural capital.
4. What do the best educational systems do? Comparative education analysis.
5. Standardized testing (High stakes). Explaining the tests. Their influence over knowledge, pedagogy, teachers attitudes. School performance.
6. Tracking. What do we know? Comprehensive and segregated education systems. Academic and vocational education.
7. School knowledge. Textbooks and other school books.
8. Parents taking part in school tasks: homework, after school academies, foreign language lessons. Homeschooling.
9. State, private and state financed schools. Demographic groups served. Debates about public (state) and private education.
10. The teaching profession. Initial and continuous training. Towards a new conception of teaching profession.
11. Schooling minorities and immigrants in the OECD area. Intercultural schools.
- 12 The gender of school. School sexism. The debate about single-sex schooling.

Working of the course.

We'll be having around 26 sessions. Half of them last two hours and the other half one hour (as the group is split into two halves). So, on the whole, every student will expect to spend 39 hours in the classroom. Every other lesson will be introducing a new lesson. In this case, you are supposed to have

read the text corresponding to the lesson (I will post every text on the virtual campus or at least those that are not included into this syllabus). I will be in charge of presenting the lesson for no more than thirty minutes. After that, we will be spending the rest of our time debating very different subjects related with every lesson (you are strongly invited to speak out your ideas and to make proposals). I will be using PowerPoint slides which I will post before every lesson.

Evaluation will be based on your taking part in the classroom and on the writing of very few short essays whose content and deadlines I will let you know in due time.

As for any consultation you may need, you may resort to my email or my office hours (Skype is also a possibility as it is the end of every lesson).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Specific readings will be posted for every lesson on virtual campus. This book could be used as a helping guide for the subjects to be covered during the course: Brooks, R., McCormack, M., Bhopal, K. (Eds.) (2013): **Contemporary Debates in the Sociology of Education**, Palgrave, McMillan.