Sociology of Education

Spiros Makris
Lecturer of Political Science
Department of International and European Studies
School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts
University of Macedonia
Thessaloniki, Greece

&

Research Fellow
Bureau of International and Constitutional Institutions
Academy of Athens
Greece

Phone numbers: +30 2310 891425 (University of Macedonia); +30 210 3664714 (Academy of Athens); +30 6972458576 (cell phone).

E-mail: smakris@uom.gr

Course Objectives

a. This postgraduate course on "Sociology of Education" will examine the relationships between *education* and *society* by reviewing a variety of *theoretical perspectives* and *empirical studies*.

b. Main topics include power, socialization, social inequality, social mobility, stratification and social reproduction as key concepts of Sociology; the special dynamics of race, class, and gender in education, especially in schooling; the critical student teacher relationship; teaching as a highly qualified profession in the late modernity; school choice and school culture in the

procedure of school socialization; and the role of higher education in social mobility in the capitalism.

Course Requirements

a. Postgraduate students will be required to write one *final paper* for this course and five smaller *response papers*. Response papers should cover the week's readings.
b. The final paper should be no more than 25 double spaced pages in length. Students will be graded by the following formula: Final paper 50%; 3 Response Papers 30%; Class Participation 20%.

Course Schedule (13 lectures)

- Introduction to the sociology of education. The basics
- Key thinkers on education (Marx, Durkheim, Weber etc)
- The key-concepts
- Theories on social and educational stratification
- Social reproduction and the school as an ideological apparatus of the state (the Althusserian approach)
- Social inequality and schooling
- Social inequality, race, class and gender in educational procedure
- Student teacher relationship
- Teaching as a highly qualified profession
- School choice and school culture
- The role of higher education in social mobility
- Some concluding remarks
- Roundtable discussion on final papers

Text Books (Current Bibliography)

Richard Arum, Irenee R. Beattie and Karly Ford (eds.) *The Structure of Schooling. Readings in the Sociology of Education,* London: Sage Publications Ltd., 2011, Second Edition (A collection of readings that explore traditional and

contemporary sociological issues in education, as well as the myriad theoretical perspectives on studying schools and their impact on social development).

Alan R. Sadovnik (ed.), *Sociology of Education. A Critical Reader*, London and New York: Routledge, 2010, Second Edition (This comprehensive and bestselling Reader examines the most pressing topics in sociology and education while exposing students to examples of sociological research on schools. Drawing from classic and contemporary scholarship, noted sociologist Alan R. Sadovnik has chosen readings that examine current issues and reflect diverse theoretical approaches to studying the effects of schooling and society. The second edition provides students with seven new readings from some of the best theorists and researchers in education including James S. Coleman, Madeleine Arnot, and Claudia Buchman. Through full, rather than excerpted primary source readings, students have the opportunity to read sociological research as it is written and engage in critical analyses of readings in their entirety. Including comprehensive section introductions, questions for reflection and discussion, and suggested readings, Sociology of Education will stimulate student thinking about the important roles that schools play in contemporary society and their ability to solve fundamental social, economic and political problems).

Jeanne H. Ballantine and Floyd M. Hammack, *The Sociology of Education. A Systematic Analysis*, New Jersey: Pearson, 2012, Seventh Edition (The Sociology of Education: A Systematic Analysis provides a sociological analysis of education using several theoretical approaches. The authors include practical applications and current educational issues to discuss the structure and processes that make education systems work).