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C. Ross

**GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE**  
**Department of Arts, Education and Commerce**

**EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS**

**ED 2010 Course Outline**

**Overview:**

Education in the 1990s is proving to be quite different from the linear projections about the future made even a decade ago. Our traditional ideas about the objectives and services of major social institutions, including public schools, have been confounded by unexpected changes in political philosophy, along with demographic changes in patterns of ethnicity and trends in social pathology that continually add to the agendas of these institutions. The outcome, at present, appears to be two competing trends. The traditional 'liberal' character of public school reform from the 60s and 70s appears to be continuing under its own momentum from the past, assisted by an anxiety to find means of responding to increasing social needs. Meanwhile, a 'conservative' agenda of the 90s, based on the principles and claimed virtues of the market place, has accumulated considerable political momentum of its own as it takes aim at public education as 'the last great monopoly'. The aim of the course is to assist us in becoming informed about the nature and implications of this possible paradigm shift in public education and the competing perspectives on some perennial areas of education from different points on the paradigm. This becomes especially interesting when we realize that these different positions are not absolutely different, but rather represent competing corollaries from the same 'partial' democratic values, particularly the value of choice. We are dealing neither with a completed historical process nor a paradigm shift that we can be certain will be complete. We are on the inside of what may be either a confirmation of the world-wary observation, 'plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose' - or a genuine revolution.

**TEXTS:**

Contemporary Issues in Education, (Second Edition) Stewin & McCann

## **SCHEDULE:**

### **Introduction**

- paradigms and ideologies
- contexts: demographic, economic, political

### **The Liberal Agenda**

- Charter of Rights and human rights education
- Multiculturalism (incl. bilingualism)
- Social Trends (family, feminism, poverty)
- Exceptional Children
- Teaching values
- Teaching teachers

### **The Conservative Agenda**

- Transforming the School
- a) the American case    b) the Canadian case
- The Alberta case:
  - Parent Councils
  - Charter Schools
  - Testing
  - consumer Satisfaction

## **EVALUATION:**

Mid-term	-	30%
Term paper	-	30%
Final exam	-	30%
Attendance & Participation	-	10%

**INSTRUCTOR:**    Dr. Campbell A. Ross

**Office:**            E 310

**Hours:**            9:00am-10:00am  
or by appointment

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