Despite popular belief to the contrary, education is not a right. The quest for educational access and opportunity, especially for historically minoritized populations, has been paved through the legal courtroom. Most often these legal challenges have been accompanied by pronounced social protests. This course is designed to explore the controversy, politics, and social protests, around key education policy issues, including but not limited to: school desegregation, affirmative action, Ethnic Studies, Women’s Studies, undocumented student access, and the Black Lives Matter movement. A central aim of this course is to critically analyze and contextualize education policy within a rich historical backdrop, one that probes and unpacks the complex social, economic, historical, and political roots and implications associated with ongoing and emerging education policy issues. Students will be expected to engage in critical discussion of past works as well as to think critically about how contemporary ideologies, such as neo-liberalism and post-racialism, shape current and future education debates.

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