Curriculum and Social Change

- Curriculum and the larger society
- Curriculum and the demands of globalization
- Curriculum is politically charged
- Curriculum is the place where we tell ourselves who we are
Curricular Alternatives

• Social adaptation—the curriculum serves to prepare students to function in the society in which they live

• Social revision—the curriculum serves to look beyond the existing toward new social arrangements
Curricular Alternatives

- Social criticism—the curriculum develops a critical perspective on existing social arrangements and points the way toward a better society
Social Adaptation

- Social adaptation and social efficiency
- Social adaptation and social mobility
- Social adaptation and the school subject
Social Adaptation

- Social adaptation and receptive learning
- The social adjustment movement
- The curriculum as career preparation
Social Revisionism

- Social revision and democratic equality
- Social revision and the school subject
- Schools and the community
- Constructivist learning
- Experiential learning
Service Learning

- A pedagogy in which students engage in activities that address human and community needs with opportunities for reflection
Service Learning

- Service learning exists where community involvement, civic engagement, and reflection come together
- Doing good
- Community participation
- Critical citizenship
Social Criticism

• Using the curriculum to critique the existing society and to promote change
• Social criticism and democratic equality
• Social criticism and the school subject
Social Criticism

- Social criticism and constructivism
- Service learning for social reconstruction
John Dewey and the Search for Community

- American philosopher and educator (1859-1952)
- How to reconcile the demands of society (school subjects) and the interests of the child
- From occupations to the disciplines of knowledge
John Dewey

- Education as the reconstruction of experience
- The school as a miniature community
- The search for the public
Schools and Communities

• The school as a resource that serves the community in which it resides

• A product of the 1930s and the effort of educators to use schools to address the social and economic problems of the day
Schools and Communities

- After school programs, adult education, clubs, recreation, etc.
- The community school—linking the school curriculum with community needs
- 21st century community learning centers
Social Reconstructionism

- The school as an agency of change
- A response to the Great Depression
- George Counts
Why Social Reconstructionism?

- Schooling and the status quo
- Inequality
- Racism and Sexism
Hidden Curriculum

- The unstated, implicit, and tacit things that schools teach
- Curriculum silences
- Textbooks and other curricular materials
- Teacher and student roles
- Classroom structure and environment
Cultural Reproduction

- Maintaining race, class, and gender inequality
- Social control
- Hegemony
- Deskilling
Curricular Solutions

- Social reconstructionism and the school subject
- Critiques of accountability (student testing and standards)
- Problem-centered curriculum
- Multiculturalism
- Critical Pedagogy
Strengths of Social Reconstructionism

- Democratizes the curriculum
- Addresses the real causes of low-achievement
- Engages and empowers students and teachers
Weaknesses of Social Reconstructionism

- Politicizes the curriculum
- Counters the role of schools in perpetuating the culture
- Challenges the traditional role of teachers
- Upsets the role of the school as an agent of the state and community