Wednesday, January 21
School and work
Global youth
• 0-17 years old
  o 90% in Third World countries
• 15-24 years old
  o 85% in Third World countries

Secondary school: Third world
• Adolescents increasingly likely to attend (currently ~50)
• More males than females attend, but gender gap is decreasing
• Literacy rate on rise
  o In Thailand
    • Age 65+: 58% of men/22% of women
    • Age 15-19: 96%

Schooling problems: Third world
• Year 2000
  o 113 million did not attend primary school
    (1/3 in sub Saharan countries)
• Education often not relevant to students' lives
• Most public schools poorly funded
  o Private schools for elites
  o Growing gap between rich and poor
• Post secondary education:
  o Limited to wealthy elite

Canada - High school
• High school
  o Drop-out rate decreasing
    • 1990: 19.7% --> 2005: 9.1%
  o ~65% of high school graduates:
    • Directly to post secondary institutions

Canada - higher education
• Canadians with university/college education in 2000:
  o Age 25-64: 41%
  o Age 25-34: 49%
• Trend since early 1990s:
  o College/university graduates increasingly re-enroll in subsequent educational programs (currently: ~50)

School attendance - Canada
• Full time attendance in 1950s:
  o Age 15-19: 40%
  o Age 20-24: 5%
• Full time attendance 2000:
• With university degree: $49 000
• With high school only: $25 000

1991-2001
• University/college credentials - work
  ○ 600 000 new jobs for university grads
  ○ 1.2 million university graduates
  ○ 200 000 new jobs for college graduates
  ○ 900 000 college graduates

Credentialism paradox
• Oversupply of higher degrees
• University/college credentials often unrelated to performed work
• Nevertheless: credentials essential
  ○ Employability
  ○ Earning power

Jeffrey Jensen approach:
Adolescence and emerging adulthood
The textbook’s approach
• Which aspects of the topic are ignored by the book?
  ○ Role of institutions
  ○ Macro level ignored: Work environment, influence of media
• Which strategy allows the book to ignore this dimension of youth?
  ○ Individualization of broader issues
  Instead of looking at macro level factors, the focus is placed on the individual
• Reasons
  ○ Why is this book designed like this?
    ■ Commercial enterprise has an influence of what is being taught

Monday, February 2
“Gender” - “Sex”
• Sex:
  ○ Biological characteristics
• Gender
  ○ Social category

Gender roles in the west
• Gender role flexibility peaks at ~6-10
• Gender roles most rigid at ~age 11-18
• Why?
  ○ Social norms
  ○ Different gender roles promoted (traditional gender norms)
  ○ Cognitive developments

Gender intensification of adolescence
○ Decline of social provision
○ Reduction of corporate taxes (top tax rate in US: 70% in 1980 -> 28% in 1989)
○ Decline of labor unions
○ Relocation of production in Third World
○ Reduction of full time work, minimum wages, benefits
○ Increasingly commercialized environment
○ Social inequality

Growing income and wealth gaps in the US
• Top 1% income earners
  ○ 1945-75: 8%
  ○ 2006: 21.3% of national income
• Income 1990-2005
  ○ Average CEO: +300%
  ○ Minimum wage: -9.3%
• Wealth 2007:
  ○ Top 1%: 34.6%
  ○ Bottom 40%: 0.3%

The economic marginalization of Canadian youth
• Youth (15-24) 2013:
  ○ Unemployment: 13.7% (ages 25-54: 5.9%)
  ○ Underemployment: 27.7%
• Non-students (15-24) 2012:
  ○ 18% work part time e.g. 70% of them involuntarily
• Youth (17-24), 1981-2012, hourly wage:
  ○ Down 8% for females
  ○ Down 13% for males

Canadian youth (age 11-25) are...
• Class poll - 27 participants
  ○ Spoiled/well off/privileged/entitled: 17
  ○ Deviant/criminal/gang members/trouble: 15
  ○ Misunderstood/misjudged/stigmatized/stereotyped: 13
  ○ Technology/media savvy, dependent: 12
  ○ Selfish/self-absorbed/materialistic/uncaring: 11
  ○ Easily influenced (media, peers)/pushovers/naive: 11

What should young Canadians do?
• Stephen Poloz, Governor of the bank of Canada, Nov 2014
  "When I bump into youths, they ask me, you know, "What am I supposed to do…?" I
  say, look, having something unpaid on your CV is very worth it… Get some real life
  experience even though you're discouraged, even if it's for free. If your parents are letting
  you live in the basement, you might as well go out and do something for free to put the
  experiences on your CV"

Global youth in 2013
• Ages 15-24
• Human problems that may have social roots come to be defined and treated as medical problems
• Medical model used instead of social model
• Pharmaceutical industry: $550 billion profit in 2004
• Critique
  ○ Commercial exploitation
  ○ Harmful side effects
  ○ Individualization of social problems

Problems of Canadian youth: Reasons? Solutions?
• Minority status
• Economic decline
• Service sector work
• Prolongation of education
• Heightened competition
• Rise of disengaged parenting
• Increased media use
• Promotional culture
• Gender socialization
  ○ Commercial culture
  • Promotion of hypermasculinity and hyperfemininity
• Increasingly unstable identities
• Focus on lifestyle
• Alienation from politics
  ○ Lack of political voice makes young people exploitable
• Medicalization

Youth in the 21st century
• Jeremy Rifkin (13):
  ○ "The new high-technology revolution could mean fewer hours of work and greater benefits for millions... The same technological forces could, however, as easily lead to growing unemployment and global depression. Whether a utopian or dystopian future awaits us depends... on how the productivity gains of the Information Age are distributed... If the dramatic productivity gains of the high-tech revolution are not shared, but rather used primarily to enhance corporate profits... chances are that the growing gap between the haves and the have-nots will lead to social and political upheaval on a global scale."