

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
FALL SEMESTER 2008**

**EDUC 100W-3
SELECTED QUESTIONS & ISSUES IN EDUCATION
(E100)**

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Tuesday & Thursday 5:30-7:20 pm Harbour Centre Campus Room 2510

PREREQUISITE: None.

Course description: This is an introductory course aimed at a wide range of students. Although many students may not have prior teaching experience, all have been learners in various situations. It will be these life experiences as learners that will provide the basis for an exploration of fundamental questions and issues in education; questions which will initially be sparked by shared readings from philosophical and critical analysis, to historical and cross-cultural studies, to empirical research. The course will provide you with an opportunity to participate in small group discussions and to complete a variety of short writing assignments. At the end of the course you should have a better understanding of the multifaceted nature of teaching and learning, and of some of the ways in which they can fruitfully be investigated. You will also have developed skills in critical reading and writing at the university level. Cannot be taken for credit by students with credit for 300 and 400 level education courses. Writing/Breadth-Humanities.

ASSIGNMENTS and ASSESSMENT:

Reflective essay (25%): After reading and discussing some examples of educational writing, you will write a short essay that draws on personal experience, observation and questions. (The first draft will be due early on in the course, feedback will be given and the final version will be due during the middle of the term).

Group teaching assignment (25%): In a group you will plan and lead a 45- to 60-minute class on some educational question and subsequently discuss the teaching choices you made. (These presentations will take place half way through the course).

Persuasive essay (25%): Drawing on models of persuasive writing discussed in class and on knowledge and insights gained from the course, you will write a short op-ed piece, suitable for a general audience, on an educational topic which matters to you. (a draft will be handed in, feedback will be given and then the final version will be due near the end of the term).

Journal (25%): Throughout the course you will keep a journal of observations, reflections, and questions prompted by the course experience. (Journal writing will begin on day 1 of class and handed in near the end of the term).

Required Readings:

- Canestari, Alan S. and Marlowe, Bruce A. (Eds. 2004). Educational Foundations: An Anthology of Critical Readings. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN-10: 0761930310
- Ed 100 Custom Courseware available at the SFU bookstore

Recommended Readings: Other readings will be available from time to time in class or on reserve at the library

Students in all Faculty of Education courses are encouraged to review policies pertaining to academic integrity available on the Undergraduate Programs website:
http://www.educ.sfu.ca/ugradprogs/student_resources/index.html
