

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

**EDUCATION 341-3
LITERACY, EDUCATION AND CULTURE**

Fall Semester, 1990
Mondays, 7:30-10:20 p.m.
Harbour Centre (HC)
TBA

Instructor: Michael Hoechsmann
Office: MPX 9501a

PREREQUISITE: 60 credit hours.

OVERVIEW

Given that this is the International Year of Literacy it might be useful to consider what literacy is, how it is practised and to what ends. Like the air we breathe, literacy seems to be so obviously a social 'good,' that it appears conceptually invisible. For the individual, literacy is seen as a requisite to social advancement and personal enlightenment; for the society at large, literacy is said to be necessary for economic take-off, social management, and the intergenerational transmission of 'culture'.

This course provides an introduction to the study of literacy from an interdisciplinary perspective. We shall explore the history of literacy in order to identify, analyze, and justify or criticize the aesthetic, communicative, cognitive and socially-transformative consequences commonly attributed to literacy. In addition, we will spend a small portion of each class focussing on our own (critical scholastic) literacy.

PURPOSE

To provide the background and the context to ask some serious questions of current literacy 'crises'.

EVALUATION

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| Short paper | 20% |
| Final paper | 40% |
| Final exam | 30% |
| Preparation & Participation | 10% |

REQUIRED TEXTS

Barthes, R. (1972). Mythologies (trans. Annette Lavers). Hill & Wang.

Broken Words. (1987). Southam News.

Perspectives on Literacy. Eds. E. Kintgen, B. Kroll, M. Rose. (1988). Southern Illinois University Press.

Please read Ong & Bartholomae (in Kintgen et al.) prior to the first session (September 10).