

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF EDUCATION****Education 375-4 Learning Communities****Course Outline**

NWTEC Site: TERRACE
Semester: Fall 1997
Instructor: Mary Petovello
Prerequisites: 60 hours of credit or permission of instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to meet the needs of pre service teachers prior to their PDP year. It will broaden their view of education and examine important humanistic influences on the role of the teacher. The course will combine theory and practice as participants grapple with the social and emotional issues which define the need for creating a positive learning community and often prohibit its development. Fundamental to the establishment of a positive learning community is the role of the ethic of caring. Participants will examine this concept from a personal and professional perspective to understand its impact on learning. Experiences will be structured through case studies and field experience.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Through the work in the course participants will:

- examine the role of the ethic of caring in education
- develop an awareness of personal values and beliefs around the ethic of caring
- increase understanding of community demographics which impact on schools and the learning climate
- develop positive interactions skills which facilitate the development of a caring learning community
- examine philosophical and psychological issues which impact on the establishment of a caring learning community
- investigate the role of the teacher including ethical and professional considerations
- examine and engage in the process of professional reflection

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Attendance and participation:** Course participants will be expected to attend seminars regularly and participate in discussions and instructional tasks.
- **Field Projects:** - Participants will engage in a field project which places them in a nurturing role within a community. In this context they will develop facilitative skills, examine the significance of this experience and their reaction to this role.
 - Participants will examine the influences of community on school and classroom climate by investigating the demographics of a specific area of their community and engaging in a tutorial project with an individual or small group of learners.
- **Journal:** Participants will maintain a Journal of reflective writing throughout the course.
- **Response Paper:** Participants will articulate their understanding of the influences that impact on the education community and their role in facilitating the development of a caring community which encourages learning.

READINGS:

The Challenge to Care in School by Noddings

Inviting School Success by Perky