

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
SUMMER SEMESTER 2006**

**EDUC 471-4
CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT: THEORY AND
PRACTICE
(D02.00)**

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Thursday 8:30-12:20
Harbour Centre Campus

PREREQUISITE: 60 hours of credit

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores philosophical, social, historical, and educational bases for developing curricula. The development of curricula to suit particular levels of teaching, subject areas and classroom contexts is addressed through class activities.

MAJOR COURSE TOPICS

The course considers the context of education in contemporary global society. Through Taylor we examine the key dynamics or “malaises” of individualism, instrumental reason and loss of freedom, which he sees as characterizing and blighting contemporary culture. Taylor’s ideas are critiqued to determine their relevance and importance to educational thinking. The nature and aims of education are examined looking at different and often competing conceptions of education. What are the main values we wish to address or convey in education? Ways of thinking about the curriculum for planning purposes are discussed. What are the key questions? Mainly these resolve into matters of suitability of purpose, content, approaches to teaching, and evaluation. How are the purposes of learning and teaching identified? The issue of curriculum content is critically discussed with reference to notions of truth and knowledge, given postmodern critiques. What should go into a curriculum? What matters most, process or content? How should teaching and learning be organized and evaluated in order to meet curriculum purposes and student needs and differences? In what ways might curriculum worthwhileness (educational value) and effectiveness be judged? According to what criteria?

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Term paper 3000 words--- 30%
2. Reading Log and in class discussion ---30%
3. Curriculum projects to suit individual needs---40%

REQUIRED TEXTS

Taylor, Charles (1992) *The Malaise of Modernity*. Anansi: Toronto
ISBN 0 88784 520 7 paperback

Walker, Decker F. and Soltis, Jonas F. (1997). *Curriculum and Aims*. (Thinking about Education series). 3rd edition. Teachers College: New York and London ISBN 0807736759 paperback

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