

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

**EDUCATION 486-4**

**SPECIAL TOPICS: DRAMA**

Intersession, 1991  
(May 6 - June 14)  
Monday and Wednesday  
5:30 - 9:20 p.m.  
Location: MPX 8620F

Instructor: D. Melanie Zola  
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731-1131 (office)  
SFU Office: MPX 8630

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**PREREQUISITE:** Suitable for elementary education students.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The course will enable students:

- to acquire knowledge of educational drama as an experiential, student-centered mode of learning;
- to actively experience and respond to the process of educational drama;
- to develop skills in planning and organizing drama in the classroom and across the curriculum;
- to implement teaching strategies that promote thinking, and engage listening, speaking, reading and writing in an integrated way

**OUTLINE OF TOPICS**

The course will comprise a broad range of experiences.

Firstly, and most importantly, it will focus on professional readings that provide some theoretical framework for the drama work to follow. This will be complemented by seminars, lectures, workshops and demonstrations, as well as a variety of problem-solving tasks and related large- and small-group work.

Secondly, the course will engage students in drama activities that build confidence and develop group involvement. Opportunities will be provided for exploring situations through drama, using, for example, drama exercises, mime, movement and music, and role-play. The emphasis will be on facilitating child-centered, organic role development as it relates to pupil background, need and interest.

The practical work in the course will comprise role drama based on literature (novels, picture books, poems, mythology, etc.) We will look at focusing the drama by considering, for example, the role of the teacher, and building identification and belief; nurturing the drama by promoting thinking; sustaining the drama through use of the appropriate modes of listening, speaking, reading, writing, art, etc.; concluding the drama;; and following it with reflection and evaluation.

**TYPICAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Attendance and participation in all parts of the course. (Note: attendance at all sessions is compulsory since class participation is an integral part of the course.)
- Completion of assigned professional readings
- Completion of brief oral and/or written assignments
- Completion of professional response journal

## ASSIGNMENTS

- Review of a minimum of two professional readings, including, at least one major drama-in-education book, and one related general text
- Professional response journal focusing on understandings of readings in relation to class participatory work
- Curriculum plans for developmental drama based on literature
- No examinations

## REQUIRED TEXTS

- Cecily O'Neill and Liz Johnson, *Dorothy Heathcote: Collected Writings*
- Les Parsons, *Response Journals*, Markham: Pembroke, 1990
- Michael Rosen, *Did I Hear You Write?* London: Deutsch: Richmond Hill, Scholastic, 1989
- Larry Swartz, *Dramathemes: A Practical Guide for Teaching Drama*, Markham: Pembroke, 1988
- Selma Wassermann, *Put some Thinking in Your Classroom*