

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

EDUCATION 498-4

SPECIAL TOPICS: EDUCATION AND THE CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

(D1.00)

(Cat. #92340)

Summer Session, 1993
(June 28 – August 6)
Tuesday/Thursday, 8:30 a.m.– 12:20 p.m.
Location: HC 2270 (Harbour Centre)

Instructors: Frieda Miller
Judy Oberlander

PREREQUISITE: EDUC 401/402.

LECTURE SERIES

A public lecture series forms a component of this course. The lectures will be held in the Fletcher Challenge Theatre, Harbour Centre, from 11:30–12:30. The lecture dates are June 29, July 6, July 13, July 20, July 27 and August 3. A simultaneous telecast will be available at SFU, Burnaby in MPX 7618.

DESCRIPTION:

Education and the Cultural Environment is a course for educators and others to develop ways of using the cultural environment in the classroom. This course will focus on resources in the community—such as cultural institutions, neighbourhood sites and heritage buildings—and how these can be adapted for classroom use. The format will include group discussions, projects, site visits, supported by selected readings, audio visual and curriculum materials. The Harbour Centre Campus and its urban environment will serve as a model for teachers' curriculum planning in their own communities.

OBJECTIVES:

- To develop an understanding of the meaning and role of cultural education; theory and practice.
- To increase awareness of cultural issues and community resources and their integration into existing curricula.
- To assist teachers in accessing and utilizing their students' prior cultural knowledge and to promote co-operative curriculum planning between teacher, student and the community.
- To identify and apply investigative techniques for learning about culture.
- To examine and assess relevant educational materials for classroom use.

ASSIGNMENTS :

Site Analysis	25%
Plan a Class Site Visit	25%
Investigation of Community Resources	25%
Plan an Activity for Heritage Week	15%
Class Participation.....	10%

Please turn over . . .

Participants should bring 5–10 slides or photographs and/or samples of written materials about their school communities to the first session of the course.

TOPICS:

1. Defining the Cultural Environment

How do notions of culture and conservation relate to the study of history, geography, social studies, performing, visual, and applied arts; and how can these notions serve as integrating concepts for cross disciplinary activity in the classroom?

2. Community and Culture

How are communities unique? How do we “map” or describe them. What issues arise that are expressed in cultural terms? How can these ideas be addressed in the classroom?

3. Cultural

What are the roles of cultural institutions? How can teachers benefit from the educational objectives and programs of various cultural institutions?

4. Visual Awareness

Techniques for “reading the environment”. A brief exploration of architecture and the built environment and an introduction to the resources available for classroom use in the areas of art, social studies, mathematics, geography and history.

5. Investigative Techniques

How can teachers utilize research and interview techniques, oral histories, photography, etc. to gain insight into their cultural environment? How can teachers access and incorporate their students’ cultural backgrounds and knowledge?

6. Curriculum Planning

How can teachers make use of their community’s unique resources in curriculum development? What are some of the educational materials, resources, and teaching strategies available to the teacher?

BOOKS

Reading materials will be discussed at the beginning of the course.