

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Education 388-4

SPECIAL TOPICS: CULTURAL STUDIES IN EDUCATION

Regular Summer Semester, 1990
May 7 - August 3
Thursdays
5:30 - 9:20 p.m.
Location: TBA

Instructor: Michael Hoechsmann

PREREQUISITE: 60 hours of credit. Educ. 240 recommended.

OVERVIEW

In 1987, two books on education soared to the top of the non-fiction best sellers list. The immense impact of Allan Bloom's The Closing of the American Mind and E.D. Hirsch's Cultural Literacy is symbolic of the return of the question of cultural competence to definitions of literacy. In this context, it is important for educators to question received notions of 'culture', to challenge the notion that there is an educational ideal, the Arnoldian conception of the 'best of what has been thought and said'.

PURPOSE

The intention of this course is to read Bloom and Hirsch against the backdrop of some of the key theoretical texts of the British Cultural Studies tradition. British Cultural Studies initially developed out of adult education where scholars such as Raymond Williams, Richard Hoggart and E.P. Thompson were confronted with the realities of working people's lives and culture. From an initial notion of culture as "whole ways of life," this tradition went on to privilege empirical studies of 'lived cultures'.

The course is designed as a seminar. Hence, it will be the responsibility of students to prepare thoroughly, in order that in-class discussions will be informed and lively.

REQUIRED TEXTS

E.D. Hirsch Cultural Literacy
Dick Hebdige Subcultures: The Meaning of Style
and articles on reserve

RECOMMENDED: Simonson/Walker, Multi-Cultural Literacy

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| EVALUATION: | Class preparation & participation | 20% |
| | Presentation of supplementary article | 20% |
| | Mid-term quiz | 20% |
| | Final paper | 40% |

Reading List

- Week 1: Penley "Teaching in Your Sleep"
- Week 2: Bloom & Hirsch — excerpts
- Week 3: Hall "Cultural Studies: Two Paradigms"
Williams "Marxism & Culture"
Williams "Culture"
- Week 4: Althusser "Ideology & Ideological State Apparatuses"
- Week 5: Gramsci — excerpts from Prison Notebooks
- Week 6: Hebdige — Subcultures
- Week 7: McRobbie "Settling accounts with Subcultures"
Willis "The Class Significance of School Counter
Cultures"
- Week 8: Barrett Intro — Women's Oppression Today
Radway Intro — Reading the Romance
- Week 9: Willis "Sexual Politics"
Ross — excerpt from No Respect
- Week 10: Levine — "Shakespeare in America"
Parker — "Where do English Departments Come From?"
- Week 11: Excerpts from Multi-Cultural Literacy
- Week 12-13: Hirsch Cultural Literacy