

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**  
**EDUCATION 342-3**  
**CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES TO LITERACY INSTRUCTION**

Spring Semester, 1991  
(January 7 - April 5)  
Thursdays, 4:30 - 7:20  
Location: MPX 9511/12

Instructor: Carmen Rodriguez

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**PREREQUISITE:** Education 341

**OBJECTIVES:**

- to reflect on the literacy theory studied in Education 341 and on its application to the field of literacy instruction
- to arrive at an historical understanding of the development of different approaches to adult literacy instruction
- to survey current approaches to literacy instruction
- to arrive at a critical understanding of some adult literacy programs in the Lower Mainland

**COURSE TOPICS:**

- the literacy/illiteracy dichotomy: review of the theory/application to literacy instruction
- the purposes of literacy instruction, the role of the literacy instructor
- the adult literacy learner
- an historical overview of literacy instruction: the "bottom-up" approach, language experience, whole language, Frierian education
- the theory behind the practice: what is understood by reading and writing?
- literacy programs in Canada, the U.S., Great Britain and the Third World
- literacy programs in British Columbia, with particular emphasis on the Lower Mainland

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

- Joyce Cameron. A Guide for Tutoring Adult Literacy Students
- Adult Basic Literacy Curriculum Guide and Resource Book
- Audrey Thomas. Adult Literacy Volunteer Tutor Program Evaluation Kit
- Audrey Thomas. Exemplary Adult Literacy Programs and Innovative Practices in Canada
- Katherine Kennedy and Stephanie Roeder. Using Language Experience with Adults: A Guide for Teachers
- Paula Davies and Ann McQuaid. Whole Language and Adult Literacy Instruction.

In addition, the instructor will provide a package of required readings and a list of recommended texts.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Student evaluation will be based on completion of a mid-term take-home exam (30%), group presentations (30%), a final paper (30%) and class participation (10%)