

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
EDUCATION 432-4/821-5
PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES IN TEACHING

Spring Semester, 1991
(January 7 - April 5)
Tuesday, 16:30 - 20:20
Location: MPX 7506

Instructor: Dr. Cornel Hamm

PREREQUISITE: 60 hours of credit

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is constructed in response to a frequently heard demand that philosophical studies in education be of more direct service to the practising classroom teacher. Accordingly a number of classroom practices and teacher-related activities (as outlined below) are philosophically examined. Assumptions underlying these practices are made explicit, the structure and meaning of the arguments clarified, and the merits of the arguments assessed.

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

- A. The teacher as educator
- B. The teacher and the curriculum. (child-centered curriculum; integrated curriculum; the "needs" curriculum)
- C. The teacher and classroom control. (compulsion; freedom and authority; discipline and punishment)
- D. Concepts of teaching and teaching practices. (conditioning; indoctrination; behaviour modification; learning by discovery; play; creativity; values clarification; individualized instruction)
- E. The teacher and facilitation of learning. (open-education; self-education; alternative education; critical thinking)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Seminar presentations - 20%
- B. Mid-term exam (on required reading) - 30%
- C. Major paper - 50%

REQUIRED READINGS

- A. Chambers, John H. The Achievement of Education. Harper & Row, 1983
- B. Selected essays