

EDUCATION 435-4

EDUCATIONAL THEORY AND THEORY CRITICISM

INTERSESSION 1980

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. S. DeCastell

Tuesday & Friday, 12:30 - 4:30

This course will explore the pedagogic utopias within influential educational theories. Critical perspectives on these utopias will be taken from both theoretical and practical bases. The relationship of educational theory to the foundation disciplines of philosophy, sociology, psychology, and to the context of contemporary educational practice will be examined.

In this way each educational model will be considered in terms of:

- 1) the theory of society presupposed,
- 2) the theory of learning presupposed,
- 3) the concept of human nature and the concept of knowledge,

as well as the practical potential for implementation in contemporary society.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: During the semester each student will be asked to prepare for the group two short critical discussion papers; on different topics. A short critical essay is to be submitted in the last week of the term. A mid-term examination will be given. There will be no final examination for this course.

REQUIRED READINGS: Works to be examined are:

PLATO, Republic

ROUSSEAU, Emile

DEWEY, John; Democracy in Education

SKINNER, B. F.; Walden Two

NEILL, A. S.; Summerhill

ILLICH, I.; Deschooling Society

FREIRE, Paulo; Education for Critical Consciousness

All required texts will be available on reserve in multiple copies and are presently available in local bookstores. A supplementary reading list and detailed course outline will be provided during the first week.