

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
SUMMER SEMESTER 2004**

**EDUC 456-4  
MODELS OF THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS IN  
EDUCATION  
(D01.00)**

**DR. STUART RICHMOND**

**Office: EDB 8546**

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MONDAY 8:30-12:20 in EDB 7500B

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**PREREQUISITE:** 60 hours of credit

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the nature, forms, processes, values and conceptions of the contemporary visual arts and relates these ideas to modernist perspectives and the development and practice of art education in schools.

**MAJOR COURSE TOPICS**

The course examines the main ideas, themes, approaches, media and guiding assumptions of contemporary art. Contemporary art involves ways of working that are frequently conceptual, improvisational, exploratory, and interdisciplinary. Such art is often personal, small scale, process-oriented, relativist, reflective and collaborative. It tends to focus on meaning rather than form or beauty; uses ordinary materials and skills, employs construction, found materials and objects, assemblage, bricolage, performance and installation, photography, scrapbooks, drawing and painting; deconstructs the grand narratives of modernism (truth, beauty, the fine arts, artist as creative genius, judgments of taste), and explores social and aesthetic issues such as the nature of art, aesthetic quality, uniqueness, consumerism, politics, ecology, gender, sexuality, the market, technology, culture, language, the media, identity, etc. The course critiques and compares modern and postmodern approaches to art with a view to providing a balanced understanding that is of value to education. Contemporary approaches provide a needed challenge to tradition, privilege and interests and are legitimate in themselves as art. But also, learning skills and an appreciation of form constitute a powerful route to understanding. Furthermore to judge by the art people buy and pay to see, traditional art still matters. Through readings, discussions, and art activities, students explore the range, meaning and value of art today, and ways in which it can be developed in the school curriculum.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

1. Term paper 3000 words---40%
2. Presentation in class of readings---20%
3. Art activities and projects---40%

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Freeland, Cynthia (2002). But is it Art? New York: Oxford University Press.

ISBN 0 19 2853678 pbk

Gablik, Suzi (1999.) The Reenchantment of Art. New York: Thames and Hudson. pbk

ISBN 0500276897 pbk

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