

99-1  
Fort St John

Instructor: Daniel Vecchio  
**EDUCATION 457-4: Drama and Education**

Winter session- Wednesdays-5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Location- Northern Lights College, Fort St. John Instructor: Daniel Vecchio

Eligibility: Suitable for elementary student teachers, elementary classroom teachers, and anyone working with children in an educational setting

Course Objectives:

**The course will enable students :**

to acquire knowledge of educational (developmental) drama as a participatory, student-centred mode of learning

to actively experience and respond to the process of educational drama through a variety of drama games, activities, themes and exercises

to develop skills in planning and organising drama lessons and units in the classroom and across the curriculum.

to experience the role of "teacher" in the drama classroom

to learn a variety of methodologies in drama education: to become familiar with the use of improvisation, story telling, reader's theatre, role-playing and drama ensembles in the context of drama education

to learn authentic assessment and evaluation of drama in the classroom

to implement teaching strategies that utilise, reading, thinking, verbal and non verbal communication, reading and listening skills

to learn a context for performance drama that is educational and relevant to curriculum

Prerequisites: ED 401/402

Text - IMPROVISATION, by David Booth

**Outline of topics:**

The course will be primarily focused on practical "hands-on" activities that teachers can use in the classroom. Some theory of drama education will be discussed. Methods used in class will cover: discussion groups, journals (reflection papers), lectures, self evaluation, instructor demonstrations, readings, planning lessons and units and, of course, participatory drama work.

Participatory work in the course will begin with activities that develop group involvement and build confidence and trust. Opportunities will be provided for exploring issues and situations through drama, using drama exercises, games, mime, movement, improvisation, role-playing, language and other forms of self expression. Emphasis will be dependent upon student needs, background and interest, working towards sustained drama work that has meaning and value.

The course will focus on using drama "for understanding"-understanding of self, each other, and the world around us. Whole group role drama and improvisation will be used as an integrated teaching system that promotes positive self-esteem and child-centred learning. Specifically, the course will teach how to engage children in drama that has its foundation in active learning through creative and structured play. A method for introducing performance drama will be explored.

### **Requirements:**

Attendance at all classes is compulsory because the class is of a participatory nature. You will be asked to try all the activities that your students will be doing.

Course reading of the text and participation in subsequent discussions

A reflective journal which documents growth, new understandings, questions and relevant thoughts and ideas born from what we do together in class.

A short drama unit-planning with specific objectives and activities.

A short class "ensemble drama"- for potential presentation

A 20 minute mini lesson for the class (taught in pairs)

A sense of adventure, fun and discovery

### **Assignments:**

The reflective journal- 15 %

The submitted unit plan- 20%

The completed ensemble drama- 20%

Participation in class activities- 25%

"The 20 minute lesson" taught to class by participant- 10%

A written self-evaluation of learning- 10%

Specific criteria will be assigned for each assignment