

SFU/Mountain  
Summer 1988

Education 341-3  
Literacy, Education and Culture  
Patricia Marin

**Course Description**

The major intent of this course is to explore and critique varying theoretical conceptions and practical approaches to literacy. This will be done through an examination of the following issues:

- an overview of traditional conceptions of literacy;
- a critique of the origins of the above in the light of contemporary microeconomic and socio-cultural values and trends;
- the institutionalization of knowledge, resulting educational practices and the influence of these on the acquisition and transmission of literacy;
- the effect of a rapidly changing technological orientation in society and future societal demands on the institutions and practices intended to define and promote literacy.

The course is intended to deal with these themes through critical analysis and practical but insightful application of a variety of perspectives, gleaned from the literature on conceptions and practices associated with the acquisition and transmission of literacy.

**Text**

Suzanne De Castell, et al. *Literacy, Society and Schooling: A Reader*.

This will be supplemented by a variety of readings, particularly on sociological, pedagogical and technological approaches to literacy.

**Course Requirements**

1. Tests and Quizzes: To provide an on-going evaluation of factual/conceptual understanding. 30%
2. Class participation/short research and opinion papers: To provide an evaluation of the level of conceptualization and expression of opinion. 40%
3. Final project(s): To apply concepts/opinions in a problem-solving situation. 30%