

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
EDUCATION 341-3 (E1.00)
LITERACY, EDUCATION & CULTURE
(Cat. #15420)

Regular Summer Semester, 1994
(May 2–July 29)
Monday, 17:30–20:20
Location: MPX 8651/2

Instructor: Marlene Asselin
Office: TBA
Phone: 291-3395 (messages)

PREREQUISITE: 60 hours of credit.

OVERVIEW

This course provides an introduction to the study of literacy from an interdisciplinary perspective. We shall explore the origins of western literacy, the conditions which favoured its development and the role of literacy in social evolution, the economic and cultural value of literacy, and the effects of literacy on cognitive processes. Of particular interest is the reliance on formal educational institutions for the mass transmission of literacy. We will be looking in some detail at the varying conceptions of literacy that educators have traditionally valued, and we will be looking at some of the current research and scholarship that attempts to explain, justify and prescribe educational practices intended to increase literacy.

PURPOSE

By the end of the course, students should be able to identify, analyze, and justify or criticize the aesthetic, communicative, cognitive and socially-transformative consequences attributed to or associated with the acquisition of literacy. They should know something of its history and be aware of the range of definitions traditionally and currently given to literacy. They should have some understanding of the distinctive contributions of conceptual study and empirical research into literacy, and understand both the capacities and limitations of each of these approaches to literacy research and practice.

EVALUATION

Grades are based upon four components:

1. Consistent and active participation in class seminars, including regular reporting of assigned small group readings20%.
2. Weekly written summaries of readings and class discussions20%.
3. Major paper on a topic of the student's own choice (10–12 pages30%.
4. Final exam30%.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Literacy for a diverse society: Perspectives, practices and policies (E. H. Hiebert), Teachers College Press, 1991. 0-8077-3097-1.

Perspectives on literacy (Eds. E. Kintgen, B. roll, & MN. Rose) Southern Illinois University Press, 1988. 0-8093-1458-4

Broken words. Calamal, P. Southam Press, 1990, 0-969221-0-0.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Literacy, society and schooling: A reader. (Eds. S. De Castell, A. Luke, & K. Egan). Cambridge University Press, 1986. 0-521-313406.