

SUMMER SESSION 1981

Kieran Egan

Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30-4:30

Allan Luke

Recently a great deal of educational and public dialogue has focused on claims of a contemporary "literacy crisis". But what is literacy? And upon what evidence are claims of a crisis based? Finally, what educational practices, if any, are appropriate in response to such claims.

This course features the public lecture series of the Summer Institute for Teacher Education. Seeking answers to these questions, we will hear from experts on reading and writing instruction, from politicians, from social historians and literary critics, and from teachers. The course attempts an historical and analytical understanding of literacy in Canadian schools. Particular attention will be paid to literacy related standards and practices in British Columbia schools. We will discuss literacy in general cultural contexts and outline practical strategies for improving literacy across the curriculum.

Format: Each four hour session will include one or two guest lectures, selected readings, and seminar discussions.

Topics and speakers will include:

- the political and social basis of literacy/Education Minister B. Smith, L. Kuehn of the B.C.T.F., and George Martell
- literacy in social, cultural and educational history/S. deCastell and A. Luke, H. Graff, J. Wilson, M. Peckham
- the economics of the Canadian school textbook/R. Lorimer
- psychological aspects of language competence/R.C. Anderson, D. Olson
- the teaching of writing/R. Coe, M. Flanigan
- instruction and assessment of reading/J. Mason, W. MacGinitie, J. Tuinman and J. Kendall

Required Texts: Students will be required to read two assigned articles in preparation for each of the fifteen guest lectures. Articles will be provided in class. In addition, students will be required to read one recommended text.

Evaluation: Take home midterm and final examinations, comprised of short essays will be required. An extended essay may be submitted in lieu of the final examination.

A detailed course schedule and reading list will be distributed at the first session. A complete schedule of S.I.T.E. public lectures is available - 2913643.