

EDUCATION 496-3

Special Topics Course: Computers, Writing, and Telecommunications

Summer Session (Kelowna)
August 10 - 14
Monday - Friday (9:00 am - 4:00 pm)

Instructor: David Porter
Phone: 291-3189 (Kelowna 762-7600)
Location: Kelowna Tele-Learning Centre
(on campus of Okanagan College)

Prerequisite

Permission of instructor. EDUC 401/402.

Description of Course

This course will be an intensive introduction to computer-based writing and telecommunications for elementary and secondary school teachers. The face-to-face portion the course will take place at the Kelowna Tele-Learning Centre during the week of August 10-14. However, students will be expected to begin the readings for the course during July and have completed them prior to the August 10 class in Kelowna.

The course will introduce teachers to the concepts of word processing, desktop publishing, and microcomputer-based telecommunications. Participants will explore the use of writing technology to enhance composition instruction. Participants will also examine the concepts of computer telecommunications and interactive conferences. Readings and a course text will be used to examine the theoretical underpinnings and issues surrounding the use of computer-based writing technology in the classroom.

Schedule and Outline of Topics

July**: Demystifying the writing process
Computer tools and the writing process ** from readings and course text
Writers of different ages
Setting up computer environments for writing

August: Using computer-based writing tools (word processors, outliners, page designers)
Electronic communications (e-mail, teleconferencing, file uploads and downloads)
Managing the computer-based writing environment

Course Requirements

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| 1. A mid-term test based on readings | 20% |
| 2. A portfolio of professional writing and/or teleconference contributions | 20% |
| 3. A research paper based on readings (4-6 pages) | 30% |
| 4. A curriculum unit incorporating ideas learned in the course | 30% |

Required Text and Readings

Daiute, Colette. Writing and Computers, Toronto, Addison-Wesley, 1985.
A collection of readings from journals will be available from the instructor.