

This course is co-sponsored by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the Faculty of Education. It may be taken for credit in either department.

EDUCATION 487-4 or SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY 460-4

THE POLITICS OF READING AND WRITING

SUMMER SESSION 1981

Tuesday & Friday, 8:30 - 12:20

COURSE DIRECTORS:

George Martell and Satu Repo

This course attempts both an historical and analytical understanding of the development of the Canadian school system. We will examine the current priorities of government educational policy and the resistance which has arisen to that policy. The course is centered on our school curriculum (hidden and not so hidden) and on a movement to create an alternative to it, focused particularly on working class children.

At the core of the curriculum discussion we will examine the meaning of literacy and what is necessary to teach working class children to read and write. A more complete outline of the course is available from Allan Luke, Faculty of Education, 2914344 or 2980312.

Topics to be covered in the course include:

- streaming systems in Toronto and Vancouver schools.
- the development of provincial government educational policy from pioneer times to the present.
- resistance to government educational policy.
- the development of a Canadian Working Class curriculum.
- comparative analysis of reading texts used in Canadian schools.
- Paulo Freire's approach to literacy and its application in Canadian schools.
- the historical development of working class education.
- discussion of the present situation in Vancouver schools for the development and implementation of a working class curriculum.

Required Texts:

Connor, Ralph. Glengarry Schooldays. McClelland and Stewart.

Grove, Phillip. Fruits of the Earth. McClelland and Stewart.

Dewdney, Selwyn. Wind Without Rain. McClelland and Stewart.

Lind, Loren. The Learning Machine. Anansi.

Ashton-Warner, Sylvia. Teacher. Bantam.

Kohl, Herb. 36 Children. Signet.

Repo, Satu. What's a Friend. Lorimer.

Repo, Satu. Marco and Michaela. Lorimer.

note: these texts are inexpensive paperbacks.

Additional handouts will be provided in class. Several films, including Starting from Nina, Rose's House, and Parliament Street will be scheduled. Also, various guest presentations by representatives of the B.C.T.F. and Vancouver School Board will be included.

Course Requirements: An extended writing project in the development of working class curriculum will be required.