

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
EDUCATION 480-4
(F6.00)

DESIGNS FOR LEARNING: FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Intersession 1995
May 8 - June 23, 1995
Tuesday and Thursday : 16:30-20:20
Location: Milner Educational Centre
6656 Glover Road, Langley

Professor: Diane Dagenais
Telephone: 291-3222

PREREQUISITE: Teaching Certificate

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims at demystifying second language instruction by examining the links and differences between first and second language acquisition. Second language education has drawn on knowledge about first language learning to trace a picture of second language development. Recent work in this area highlights the similar focus on making meaning during the acquisition processes across languages. Yet, there remain differences in the surface features of each linguistic system and in the cultural practices surrounding language use. Moreover, the status of the first and second language can vary according to social and educational contexts. This naturally has an impact on the particular type of classroom support needed to foster growth in a given language.

Through a variety of large group, small cooperative group, and individual activities, we will explore our own processes as second language learners and work with a number of classroom approaches that can be applied to teaching French as a second language. Current Ministry documents, curriculum practices, and teaching materials related to the second language classroom will also be examined.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS

- Strategies and individual processes in second language acquisition
- Reapplication of knowledge from the first to the second languages
- Communicative competence approaches to teaching and theories of language
- The role of over-generalizations
- Cultural patterns of language use
- Contextual support in second language learning
- Connections between oral and written communication in the second language class
- Authentic versus contrived learning materials

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Term project and presentation	40%
Portfolio of language resources and materials	30%
Reading response log	30%

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Rivers, W. (1987). Interactive Language Teaching. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
Nunan, D. (1991). Language Teaching Methodology. Englewood, NJ: Prentice Hall.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Skehan, P. (1989). Individual Differences in Second Language Learning. London, UK: Routledge.
Stern, H.H. (1992). Issues and Options in Language Teaching. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.