

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
SUMMER SEMESTER 2008**

**EDUC 476-4
DESIGNS FOR LEARNING: ELEMENTARY SCIENCE
(E100)**

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Monday 5:30-9:20 in EDB 7500B

PREREQUISITE: EDUC 401/402

DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to provide a comprehensive conceptual framework for making sense of the events of curriculum and instruction in Elementary school science: it provides an introduction to thinking about science teaching and the practical skills required to do the job.

Topics included:

What is science, and why should it be taught anyway?
Using philosophy of science to develop a sound conception of scientific process.
What is the "scientific method"? Does it really exist?
Are scientists "open-minded" and "objective"?
What makes an experiment an experiment?
What is the role of human purpose and interest in scientific inquiry?
What programs and materials are available to elementary science teachers?
How can we interpret what students say and do in the science classroom?
How do young children think about particular scientific concepts?
Parent and community involvement in science and technology.
Setting realistic and defensible objectives
Arguing for the defensibility of your own science program.
Constructing your own science curriculum materials.
Analyzing and improving science teaching.
Tapping the research on science learning.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Midterm - 45%
A mini-unit plan or theme study encompassing 5-6 lessons. This is to be accompanied by a short paper justifying the unit.
2. Final- 45%
A short paper (letter) summarizing your approach to science teaching and your plans for future teaching and learning of science
3. The remaining 10% of your grade will be based on my assessment of your performance in class.

**READINGS:
FOUNDATIONS**

Inquiry: Thoughts, Views, and Strategies for the K-5 Classroom. A monograph for professionals in science, mathematics, and technology education (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2000/nsf99148/htmstart.htm>)

Additional readings will be distributed in class and via email.

Students in all Faculty of Education courses are encouraged to review policies pertaining to academic integrity available on the Undergraduate Programs website:

http://www.educ.sfu.ca/ugradprogs/student_resources/index.html