

Summer Semester 2003

EDUC 476 - 4

Designs for Learning: Elementary Science

D01.00

Dr. Allan MacKinnon

Office: EDB 8629

Phone: 291-3432

E-mail: amackinn@sfu.ca

Tuesday 8:30-12:20 in EDB 7500F

PREREQUISITE:

Educ 401/402

This course provides an introduction to elementary school science teaching, focusing on theoretical and practical aspects of bringing science to life in the minds of children.

Topics:

- the nature and purpose of science education
- teaching and assessing science through inquiry
- current theoretical perspectives on science learning
- trends in research on science learning and teaching
- demonstrations and experiments
- the role of human purpose and interest in scientific inquiry
- programs and materials available to elementary science teachers
- children's early science learnings through play
- listening to children's ideas in science
- science learning opportunities in the community

Learning Activities:

- teaching children together
- setting realistic and defensible objectives
- designing activities with assessment and evaluation in mind
- justifying the science program
- making science activities and materials
- analyzing and improving science teaching

Assignments:

- 45% group project: mini-unit plan on science theme
- 45% final paper: professional growth plan for science teaching
- 10% participation

Required readings will be provided by instructor.