

Summer Semester 1998

**EDUC 476 - 4**  
**Designs for Learning: Natural Sciences**  
**(Elementary)**  
**D01.00**

Dr. M. Wideen  
Office: MPX 8672  
Tel: 291-4825  
E-mail: wideen@sfu.ca

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**PREREQUISITE**

Educ 401/402

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The past few years has seen a renewed interest in science at all levels. The report, *Science for every student*, produced by the Science Council of Canada has brought to our attention the importance of science teaching to all levels. The recent Ministry of Education Provincial Learning Assessment has pointed to the need for an examination of science teaching in all grades. This atmosphere creates an interesting and exciting context in which this course will be offered. We also have a new curriculum in science.

This course is aimed primarily at exploring effective ways of teaching science at the elementary (and secondary) school level. It is also designed to examine the special problems and current issues in science teaching. As such, the course is designed so that students will:

- gain an overview of a variety of programs designed to teach science;
- examine and become proficient in using different models of teaching applicable to these programs;
- explore how science teaching and science curriculum development have been influenced by various societal and educational trends;
- examine current controversies and problems in science teaching, and
- examine the current curriculum materials for British Columbia.

The course activities will be linked to classroom practice wherever possible. It is aimed at both Education 404 and at practising teachers. Students will be encouraged to undertake an action research project as part of the course. *The course is aimed primarily at the elementary grade. However, the issues are common across all grades. Special attempts will be made to address specific concerns of those planning to teach in the secondary school.*

**NATURE OF THE COURSE**

The course will involve a combination of hands-on activity, seminars, presentations and micro teaching. The seminars will typically involve discussing readings in relation to the objectives outlined above. The micro teaching will involve the instructor, visitors or students demonstrating and engaging the group in teaching activities.

**TOPICS**

The following topics will be examined in the course (not necessarily in this particular order). Students will be asked to identify additional topics on the first meeting of the course.

- the science curriculum as prescribed
- the science curriculum as practiced
- the objective and rationale for science teaching
- models of teaching and their application in secondary science teaching
- issues and problems in science teaching
- implementing new ideas
- evaluation of students

**REQUIREMENTS**

Students will be expected to read extensively and to participate both in seminars and micro teaching. The occasional "think piece" (a short two page think paper) will be required. The final grade will be decided on the basis of class participation, a final project report based on an action research project and an exit interview.

A set of readings will be distributed at the beginning of the course for which a small fee will be charged.