

Summer Semester 2000

EDUC 351 - 3
Teaching the Older Adult

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Tuesdays 15:00-17:50

Location: Harbour Centre (HC) 1325

D01.00

PREREQUISITE

60 credit hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a basic course in adult education with a focus on the older adult learner -- i.e. people in the third age or retirement phase of life. Theory is drawn from mainstream adult education, supplemented with principles and techniques of effective practice in teaching older adults. The goal is to prepare students from a variety of fields and areas of interest to develop more effective strategies for meeting the needs of an expanding population of older adults through education.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will:

1. Understand the implications of an aging society for third-age education.
2. Appreciate the various institutional contexts in which programs take place, and the influence of the institutional context on the delivery of programs, teaching, and learning.
3. Understand more deeply the needs, desires, capacities of third-age learners, and the implications for effective learning/teaching.
4. Be able to define central concepts: e.g., third-age, empowerment, facilitation, leadership, mental fitness, critical thinking, self-directed learning.
5. Have greater awareness of aging as a social construction and how stereotypes and negative attitudes affect learning and participation.
6. Identify principles of research, program development and evaluation.
7. Be prepared to identify and discuss current issues in policy and practice.

ASSIGNMENTS

Your final grade will be based on:

- (1) Review of an article (due week 5) - 15%
- (2) Self-directed Learning Contract (due in week 7) - 5%
- (3) Take-home midterm (to be completed during week 8) - 45%
- (4) Final project (to be handed in on the last day of class) - 45%

REQUIRED READINGS

Brookfield, S.D. (1986). Understanding and Facilitating Adult Learning. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass (1986). ISBN 0-87589-674X.

Courseware Package. (1997). Simon Fraser University.

RECOMMENDED READINGS (on reserve)

Cusack, S.A. & Thompson, W.J.A. (1999). Leadership for Older Adults: Aging with Purpose and Passion. Philadelphia, Brunner Mazel Taylor & Francis. ISBN 0-87630-931-7.

Kreisberg, S. (1992). Transforming Power: Domination, Empowerment, and Education. Albany: State University of New York. ISBN 0-7914-0663-6.

Brookfield, S.D. (1991). Developing Critical Thinkers: Challenging Adults to Explore Alternative Ways of Thinking and Acting. San Francisco - Jossey Bass. ISBN 1 55542 055 9.

Manheimer, R.J., Snodgrass, D.D., & Moskow-McKenzie, D. (1995). Older Adult Education: A Guide to Research, Programs, and Policies. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press. ISBN 0 313 28878 X.