

Education 441-4 Cultural Differences and Education

Fall, 1982

Instructor: Dr. K. Toohy

Thursdays, 4:30-8:30

Location: on campus

Description:

This course is designed for persons working or preparing to work in educational settings and is focussed on the multicultural nature of Canadian schools. Participants will investigate social, political and economic characteristics of the Canadian "cultural mosaic" historically and in the present. With this background, participants will examine educational approaches, techniques and materials which might be effective for working with students from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

Topics for investigation:

1. the context: social, political and economic considerations
 - participants in EDUC 441 as a multicultural group, personal and family histories in Canada, aboriginal and immigrant history and contemporary situations
 - official educational and governmental policy statements on multiculturalism
2. the child: his/her cultural and linguistic background
 - information about students that is available to educators, differences as resources, "culture" as a problematic concept
 - evaluating children's linguistic backgrounds, possibilities for first language or bilingual instruction, second language learning and teaching
3. the multicultural school
 - administrative control and goal-setting, facilitating community decision-making
 - teachers' expectations and demands, cross-cultural communication in classrooms, methods for a variety of learning styles
 - curricular content, identifying bias, creating/selecting appropriate materials, multicultural materials across the curriculum

Course requirements:

1. attendance
2. history of family in Canadian setting (short paper)
3. annotated bibliography of research or materials
4. term paper