

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Educ 414-4 D100
Designs for Learning: Secondary Social Studies
Summer 2009

Instructor: Dr. Kumari Beck
Class location: Surrey Campus Room 5360
Wednesdays: 1:30 pm – 5:20 pm

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“ Social studies teaching and learning should be about uncovering the taken-for-granted elements in our everyday experience and making them the target of inquiry.”

(Wayne Ross, 2006, p. 6)

Course Description:

This course invites you to develop a familiarity with, and confidence about teaching secondary social studies. By examining the question “What is social education?” we will first explore what it means to teach social studies, and work at developing a vision for social education/ studies. You will then, in a collaborative setting, learn strategies and methods to implement that vision.

You are expected to grapple with some of the current research in social education, to work collaboratively with colleagues, to think critically about issues, and to demonstrate that you can integrate the principles of social education into your lesson planning. We will examine the different approaches to classroom social studies, and the course will emphasize an issues-based approach. This means taking a stance on social issues and understanding how you can engage students with a dynamic, relevant and critical social studies curriculum. You will examine the provincial PLOs for secondary social studies, identify the dominant thematic strands at the grade level you select, and will practice producing curricula that are characterized as interdisciplinary, critical, and culturally relevant.

Assignments:

#1 Social Studies and ‘Everyday Life’

15%

Each student will contribute to class discussion, a short critical analysis of an issue (current event) reported in the media that relates to the social education curriculum.

Details to be discussed in class.

#2 Reflective practitioner: Developing a vision

25%

Maintain a weekly response journal/log in which you respond thoughtfully and critically to class readings, discussions, videos, activities etc.

Assignment and due dates will be confirmed after class discussion on Day 1.

#3 Building Resources: a group project

30%

Students will form into small groups (4 – 5) and identify ONE area and grade level of the secondary school curriculum (IRPs) that they would like to research. (Eg. Social Studies 11, or an elective, History 12)

You will research and identify a variety of ideas for lessons, resources, assessment methods etc that will become a resource package for your subject/grade. Materials will be shared as handouts, CD's with the rest of the class.

#4 Final Project: Develop a Unit Plan

30%

You will develop a vision for the year, rationale and a Unit Plan for a specific grade/subject area.

Details will be provided in class and assignment criteria will be confirmed after discussion.

There will be NO FINAL EXAM for this course.

Required Texts

Roland Case & Penney Clark, Eds. (2008). *The Canadian Anthology of Social Studies Vol 2: Issues and strategies for secondary teachers*. Vancouver: Pacific Educational Press.

ISBN 978-1-895766-47-9.

Supplementary readings will be identified in class.

BC Ministry of Education Integrated Resource Package (IRPs) for Social Studies Grades 8 – 10, and Grade 11, and selected subject areas from History 12, Law 12, Geography 12, Comparative Civilizations 12, Civic Studies 11, BC First Nations Studies 12, Social Justice 12.

Retrieved from the following website:

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/irp_ss.htm

(Please do not print out until we have discussed this in class)