SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

EDUCATION 496-4
SPECIAL TOPIC: MEDIA AND EDUCATION
(D1.00)

Summer Session, 1992   Instructor: John Jaworski
(June 29 – August 7)
Tuesday/Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
Location: MPX 8651

PREREQUISITE: EDUC 401/402

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an inherently practical one — while it includes a significant theoretical component, the basic tenet it supports is that the *craft* elements of media production are inseparable from their (educational) effect on the viewer or listener.

The central principle which underlies this approach is that it is essential for the 'producer' to by sympathetic to the needs of the viewer. This affects the overall design of audio-visual material, and the detailed elements involved in the transition from one picture to another. It involves, at every stage in the construction of a program, an awareness of what the viewer's frame of mind is likely to be, what they are expecting, and what they wish to see. The craft elements of the course will largely be devoted to making the viewer forget that there is a camera involved.

It is intended to concentrate on *three* specific applications of media. The focus will be on the *production* of programs, and the concepts involved in the use of pre-prepared programs will be illustrated and discussed through the design process for these applications.

Aside from any specific contributory audio-visual exercises, course participants will work to the production of:

1.   **a short instructional video program:** this can be a great deal of fun, as well as rehearsing the craft elements of video production; with luck, the subject can be trialled with a suitable audience.
2.   **a short observational sequence:** using video as an aid to in-service work, by recording 'live' teaching, ought to be more than a static camera at the rear of a classroom; this exercise will examine the issues of selection and filtering inherent in recording teaching, as well as editing considerations and the ultimate use and acceptability of the result.
3.   **an audio-cassette instructional program:** an often-ignored, but particularly cost-effective, method of using media technologies is a sympathetic combination of spoken word and prepared illustration. This is used to good effect, for example, in teaching adult students technical manipulative process in mathematics or sciences.

The course would also be supported by a theoretical strand on *'Effective Script-Writing for Educational Media'*. The amount of practical activity that can be undertaken will naturally depend on the amount of resource available in the shape of cameras, recorders etc., but the desire is to get course members learning through doing. It is also in the spirit of the course that reflection on the process will be given as high a prominence as mastery of the techniques.

ASSESSMENT

Attendance and class contribution	20%
A self-assessment exercise in conjunction with the course tutor on reflections upon the three exercises undertaken as part of the course.	80%