

Special Topics: Teaching the Gifted
(The Gifted and Talented Student)

Summer Session 1988
Wednesday & Friday
1:00 - 4:50 P. M.
MPX 9511

Instructor: ~~Dr. G. J. Laine~~
Harris Lewis

PREREQUISITE: Education 401/402 or equivalent.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. That students become familiar with the development and education of the gifted student through a survey of several topics.
- B. Participants have an in-depth knowledge of ONE ISSUE (e.g., identification, counselling, curriculum differentiation) from the research on the gifted learner.
- C. Participants will know ways of integrating research and practical approaches into school programs.

TOPICS:

- A. Development and the Nature of Giftedness: Myths and popular misconceptions; sources of gifted ability; characteristics of gifted learners; variation among the gifted; learning and cognitive style.
- B. Identification of giftedness: screening, identification, and selection; criteria and assessment; process of identification and assessment tools; the role of informal and formal assessment; creativity.
- C. Programming Options: philosophy, policy, and administration issues; types of response; modes of delivery; curriculum differentiation; style and teaching strategies; teaching thinking.
- D. Evaluation and support: the community and the gifted student; the teacher and the gifted students; student evaluation and program evaluation.
- E. Issues in the education of the gifted student: research, areas of concern.

REQUIREMENTS: (2 papers - approximately 2500 words each - from the following, and one reflective question):

- A. Overview and critique the rationale for special programming for gifted students or atypical learners as described by a board or provincial policy/mandate.
- B. Prepare a major paper on one issue in this field. The paper should be one that could be shared with a colleague who has expressed a wish to know more about the topic. References which would be of significant interest must be included.
- C. Plan and present (program, unit of) studies to illustrate ways of integrating the knowledge of gifted students into the mainstream class activity or of generating a challenge to gifted learners.

TEXTS:

Gallagher, J. J. (1985). Teaching the gifted child. Allyn & Bacon.

British Columbia (1982). Enrichment & Gifted Education Resource Book. Ministry of Education.

Various articles will be provided throughout the course. Participants should also make themselves aware of issues through the following journals: Gifted Child Quarterly, Roeper Review, Journal for the Education of the Gifted; G/C/T.