

EDUCATION 486-3:

SPECIAL TOPICS: THE IMAGINATION IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

Semester: 1990-1

Instructor: Kieran Egan
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OBJECTIVES:

To introduce students to various conceptions of imagination, to help them become clearer about what it is and its roles in cognition, and to explore ways in which it can enhance teaching and learning.

OUTLINE OF THE COURSE:

For descriptive purposes the course can be divided into three parts, even though they will be somewhat intermingled during instruction.

1. What is imagination?

This section will explore past conceptions of imagination, from the ancient Greeks' and Hebrews' through the Enlightenment and Romantic periods.

2. Imagination in teaching.

This section will explore ways in which individual teachers can bring imagination to bear particularly on the planning of units and lessons, and on their execution. We will draw on a variety of texts and ideas.

3. Imagination and learning.

Obviously this cannot sensibly be separated from section 2 above. We will, however, consider in some detail characteristics of the changing imaginative lives of children, K-12, and explore ways in which we can draw on these to make what we teach more engaging and meaningful. The implications of this section will involve discussion and critical reflection on the curriculum as well as on teaching practices and learning opportunities.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Egan, K., & Nadaner, D. (eds.) Imagination and Education. New York: Teachers College Press.

Warnock, Mary. Imagination. Faber.

Egan, K. Teaching as Story Telling. Althouse Press.

Frye, Northrop. The Educated Imagination. Toronto: CBC Learning Systems.

N.B. This course will be taught entirely through the medium of the MTS *FORUM computer system. It is designed for students who are remote from the S.F.U. campus but who have a computer and a modem. (If you do not already have a sign-on I.D. on the S.F.U. computer system, you will need to arrange this before the course begins.)

If you are interested in taking this course you should write at your earliest convenience to:

Sylvia Foran
Undergraduate Program
Faculty of Education
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, B.C.
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Once you register and pay fees you will be sent a package which will include the readings, information on how to access the *FORUM system through which the course will be conducted, and a schedule of readings and assignments.

Enrollment limited to 20