

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
SUMMER SEMESTER 2005**

**EDUC 456-4**

**MODELS OF THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS IN EDUCATION  
(D01.00)**

**Jan MacLean**  
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MONDAY 8:30-12:20 in EDB 7500B

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**PREREQUISITE:** 60 hours of credit

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the nature, forms, processes, values and conceptions of the contemporary visual arts and relates these ideas to modernist and postmodernist perspectives and the development and practice of art education in schools.

**Major Course Topics**

The course examines the main ideas, themes, approaches, media and guiding assumptions of contemporary art. Contemporary art involves ways of working that are frequently conceptual, improvisational, exploratory, and interdisciplinary. Contemporary approaches provide a needed challenge to tradition, privilege and interests and are legitimate in themselves as art. But also, learning skills and an appreciation of form constitute a powerful route to understanding. This course critiques and compares modern and postmodern approaches to art with a view to providing a balanced understanding that is of value to education. Through readings, discussions, and art activities, students explore the range, meaning and value of art today, and ways in which it can be developed in the school curriculum.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

1. Term paper ---40%
2. Presentation in class of readings and reading log---20%
3. Art activities and projects---40%

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Eisner, Elliot (2002). *The Arts and the Creation of Mind*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press.  
(ISBN 0 300 09523 6)

Freeland, Cynthia (2002). *But is it Art?* New York: Oxford University Press.  
(ISBN 0 19 2853678) pbk

Additional readings will be handed out in class or will be available on the course website.

**[Return to Education's Undergraduate 2005-2 Course Outlines Main Page.](#)**

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