

**EDUCATION 342-3**  
**Contemporary Approaches to Literacy Instruction**

Spring Semester, 1990  
Wednesday, 4:30 - 7:20 p.m.  
First class will be January 17th  
Location: Harbour Centre 1430

Instructor: Carmen Rodriguez

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**PREREQUISITES:** Education 341

**OBJECTIVES:**

- to reflect on the literacy theory studied in Education 341 and on its application to the field of literacy instruction.
- to arrive at an historical understanding of the development of different approaches to adult literacy instruction, both in developed and under-developed societies.
- to survey current approaches to literacy instruction around the world, with particular emphasis on Canada and British Columbia.
- to arrive at a critical understanding of some adult literacy programs in the Lower Mainland.

**TOPICS:**

- the literacy/illiteracy dichotomy: review of the theory/application to literacy instruction.
- the purposes of literacy instruction, the role of the literacy instructor.
- the adult literacy learner
- an historical overview of literacy instruction: the "bottom-up" approach, language experience, whole language, Freirian education.
- the theory behind the practice: what is understood by reading and writing?
- literacy programs in Canada, Great Britain and the Third World
- literacy programs in British Columbia, with particular emphasis on the Lower Mainland.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Brian V. Street, Literacy in Theory and Practice.

Joyce Cameron. A Guide for Tutoring Adult Literacy Students

Adult Basic Literacy Curriculum Guide and Resource Book

Audrey Thomas. Adult Literacy Volunteer Tutor Program Evaluation Kit

Audrey Thomas. Exemplary Adult Literacy Programs and Innovative Practices in Canada.

In addition, the instructor will provide a package of required readings.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Student evaluation will be based on completion of a mid-term take-home exam (30%), group presentations (30%) and a final paper (40%).