

Simon Fraser University

EDUCATION 385-4

Special Topics: Whole Language

Regular Summer Semester, 1990
(May 7 - August 3)
Mondays
5:30 - 9:20 P. M.
Location: MPX 7600

Instructor: Sue Montabello
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*"Whole language in its essence goes beyond the simple delineation of a series of teaching strategies to describe a shift in the way in which teachers think about and practise their art."
(Sharon Rich)*

PREREQUISITE:

Education 401/402 or the equivalent of a first year practicum.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed for teachers who wish to understand the foundations of 'whole language' approaches to literacy. **Education 385** will provide an opportunity for teachers to examine the theoretical foundations and the practices that issue forth from the 'whole language' philosophy.

The course will investigate insights from recent research in language learning and their implications for the 'whole language' classroom. This will provide a context in which you will examine and reflect upon: your beliefs regarding learning and teaching language; your role as teacher in engaging children in their search for meaning; the means by which to enhance language learning in the classroom.

Education 385 is designed so as to enable you to reflect on your own classroom experience and plan ways in which you may test and try new ideas in the future; and to assist you to develop a new repertoire of methods and materials that will enhance language learning in the classroom.

The course will comprise a broad range of experiences: lectures; workshops and demonstrations; seminars; individualized tasks; small-group work.

OVER

OUTLINE OF TOPICS:

What is literacy? How do we grow into literacy?
Theoretical and research foundations of whole language instruction.
Principles of whole language instruction.
Creating an environment to enhance language learning.
Developing meaning through oral language -- with special reference to informal talk, discussion, storytelling and drama.
Developing meaning through reading & writing -- with special reference to the emergent reading/writing process, reading aloud, individualized reading and literature-based reading instruction.
Evaluation and record-keeping in a whole language approach.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- *Attendance and participation in all aspects of the course
- *Completion of assigned professional readings
- *Completion of assigned children's novel readings
- *Completion of brief oral and/or written assignments
- *Completion of professional journal

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- *Lucy McCormick Calkins. The Art of Teaching Writing. Heinemann (paperback)
- *Liz Waterland. Read with Me: An Apprenticeship Approach to Reading. Thimble Press (paperback)
- *Jim Trelease. The New Read Aloud Handbook. Penguin (paperback)
- *G. Wells. The Meaning Makers. Heinemann
- *R. Routman. Transitions from Literature to Literacy. Heinemann
- *K. Goodman, & Y. Goodman. The Whole Language Evaluation Book. Heinemann
- *D. Holdaway. Stability and Change in Literacy Learning. Heinemann