

The Visual Arts, Imagery, And Education

Summer Session, 1984

Tuesdays, Thursdays, 1:00 - 4:50

Instructor: Dan Nadaner

Location: on campus

The Visual Arts, Imagery, and Education is a seminar course open to graduate students, and to a limited number of undergraduates, with the consent of the instructor. The course should be of interest to students interested in thinking processes associated with education, and with the role of imagery in new forms of classroom activities. No background in the visual arts is required.

The course reviews recent research on mental imagery, and explores the role of the image in education. Specific areas to be focused on included: imagery in writing, imagery in the visual arts, and imagery in social studies. Course requirements consist of readings and two 6 - 10 page papers, one concerned with theories of mental imagery and one with educational applications.

Outline of Class Sessions

1. Theories of Mental Imagery

- A. The debate: Do we think in images?
And, if so, what are they like?
- B. Comparing evidence from several fields:
The classics, the "old" psychology, psychoanalysis,
art education, philosophy, and the "new"
cognitive psychology.

2. Potentials for Imagery In Education

- A. The natural way to think: arguments from
psychologists and educators.
- B. The natural way to write: Gabrielle Rico's
Writing The Natural Way
- c. Guest lecture: imagery and other curriculum areas

3. Practical Projects: Imagery In the Arts and Social Studies

- A. The natural way to create in the visual arts.
 - 1. Looking at drawing as a record of perceptions.
 - 2. Looking at painting as a record of emotions.
 - 3. Imagery activities for the school.

B. Improving images of other cultures in the social studies.

1. Evidence from recent research in British Columbia
2. Obstacles to better imagery: stereotypes in the media and what the teacher can do about them
3. Learning to "map" the social world: the Steinberg system.

Course Requirements

1. Completion of required readings, and participation in discussions, is a basic requirement of the course.
2. The first six to ten page paper will compare the arguments of two theorists of mental imagery. The paper will compare and contrast their views on the nature and significance of mental imagery, and evaluate the respective strengths of their views. Due at middle of term.
3. The second six to ten page paper will deal with some aspect of the role of imagery in education. It is suggested that you analyze the ideas of one of the writers on imagery and education (for example, Egan, Abbs, Rico, Arnheim, Gordon, Eldridge, Nadaner) and develop a new type of learning experience that emerges from these ideas. All students will plan this paper in consultation with the instructor. Types of projects could include: dream poetry, analyzing heroes and sex-role stereotypes on T.V., painting and emotions, writing and autobiography, etc. Students may emphasize their own creative work in this paper if they are so inclined.

Bibliography

Note: Required readings for seminars are marked with an asterisk, and will be distributed in photocopy form, excepts for the Sommer and Block paperbacks (required texts).

Part I: Theories of Mental Imagery

- * Arnheim, Rudolf. Visual Thinking
- * Block, Ned. Imagery.
Delaney, Gayle. Living Your Dreams.
- * Gordon, Rosemary. A Very Private World. In P. Sheehan,
Ed., The Function And Nature of Imagery.
- * Hall, Calvin, S. What People Dream About. Scientific
American. 184, May, 1951, 60 - 64.
- * Hannay, Alistair. Mental Images: A Defence.
Jung, Carl. Man And His Symbols.
- * Kosslyn, Stephen. Image And Mind.
Paivio, Alan. Imagery And Verbal Processes.
Piaget, Jean. Mental Imagery In The Child.
Read, Herbert. Education Through Art.
Ryle, Gilbert. On Thinking.
Samuels, Mike. Seeing with The Mind's Eye.
- * Shepard, Roger. The Mental Image. American Psychologist.
1978, 33, 125- 137.
Sheikh, A.A. Imagery.
- * Sommer, Robert: The Mind's Eye: Imagery In Everyday Life.

Part II: Potentials For Imagery In Education

- * Abbs, Peter. Education And The Living Image:
Reflections on Imagery, Fantasy, and The
Art Of Recognition. Teachers College Record,
82: 475 - 96, Spring, 1981.
- * Egan, Kieran. Educational Development.
- * Piaget, Jean. The Child's Conception Of The World.
- * Rico, Gabriele. Writing The Natural Way.
Richardson, Glenn E. Educational Imagery.
Singer, Jerome. Imagination And Make-Believe Play
In Early Childhood: Some Educational Implications.
Journal Of Mental Imagery, 1977, 1, 127 - 144.

Part III: Practical Projects: Imagery In the Arts and Social Studies

- * B.C. Secondary Art Curriculum
- * Eldridge, Arthur. Images of Conflict.
Gordon, Rosemary. An Investigation Into Some of the Factors that Favour
The Formation of Stereotyped Images. British Journal of Psvchology,
39, (3), 156 - 187.
- * Langer, Suzanne. Problems of Art.
Lansing, Kenneth. The Effect of Drawing on the Development of Mental
Representations. Studies In Art Education. 22, 3, 15 - 23, 1981.
- * Nadaner, Dan A Matter Of Life and Death. Vanguard, December, 1983.
- * Nadaner, Dan. On Art And Social Understanding: Lessons From Alfred Schutz.
Journal of Multi-Cultural And Cross-Cultural Issues In Art
Education, 1 (1), Fall, 1983.
Schiff, Stephen. The Will to Beauty. Vanity Fair, 47 (1), Jan., 1984.
- * Sontag, Susan. On Photography.
- * Steinberg, Saul. The Inspector.

Required Texts

- Block, Ned. Imagery.
Sommer, Robert. The Mind's Eye: Imagery In Everyday Life.