

Literacy, Education and Culture

Education 341

Section: D100

Term: 2010 Summer

Instructor: Dr. Suzanne Smythe

EDB 8635

Office hours: Monday 1:30-3:30 or by appointment

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Discussion Topics: From the earliest representations of human experience, to contemporary digital cultures, literacy has been one of societys most powerful cultural tools. In its many forms, literacy has had far-reaching impact on the creation of knowledge, the organization of gender, race and class relations, and the formation of institutions. Formal education is one of the most important institutions through which literacy is transmitted and society is organized. This course explores the consequences of literacy for people and for the organization of education, from the earliest days of writing to the present. We will pay particular attention to the work of contemporary education institutions in this historical moment in which traditional print literacy and digital literacy cultures intersect.

Grading: EVALUATION

- 1.\x09Midterm quiz (in class)\x09\x09\x09\x0925%
- 2.\x09Mini-project\x09\x09\x09\x09\x0930%
- 3.\x09Portfolio \x09\x09\x09\x09 30%
- 4.\x09Participation in online discussion \x09\x09\x0915%

Mini-projects can be completed individually or in small groups. The mid-term quiz will be developed by students in class, and based on course concepts and terminology. The portfolio, due on the last day of class, is a selection of student work during the course, including at least three reflections on course readings and/or article summaries, as well as examples of class activities and tasks, blog entries, reflections on learning and any other texts representing course learning you would like to include. Multiple modes of presentation for projects and portfolio entries are encouraged, including essay-formats, computer-based and web 2.0 technologies, art, photo-essays and so on. Participants are encourages to contribute to class activities by suggesting and contributing relevant articles, visual and digital texts, video and audio material.

*Regular attendance is required. Two or more absences or late arrivals without a medical or other formal excuse will affect the final course mark.

*At least two of sessions (July 15 and August 5) will be held online via Dialogue Central in lieu of face-to-face meetings.

Required Texts: THERE IS NO REQUIRED TEXT FOR THIS COURSE.

COURSE MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED AS SFU LIBRARY LINKS ON DIALOGUE CENTRAL, AND BY THE COURSE INSTRUCTOR FOR A PHOTOCOPY FEE.

<http://dc.educ.sfu.ca/dc/>

Recommended Texts:

Literacy, Education and Culture

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: 60 credits

Notes: Students in all Faculty of Education courses are encouraged to review policies pertaining to academic integrity available on the Undergraduate Programs website:

http://www.educ.sfu.ca/ugradprogs/student_resources/index.html

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