

Sociocultural Perspectives on Education and Identity

Education 856

Section: G021

Term: 2014 Spring

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Discussion Topics: Calendar Description:

Course activities will be structured for participants to consider recent formulations of learners as agents as well as subjects of culturally constructed, socially imposed worlds. Participants will examine a number of ethnographic descriptions of the experiences of learners in a variety of communities, noting in particular their use of diverse mediations/tools, including language. Participants will consider these ideas in relation to their own educational communities and develop plans for research activity in those sites.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

We will begin the course by reviewing diverse conceptualizations of sociocultural theory in second language education. Then we will explore how sociocultural theories of language education relate to theories of identity construction and (re)negotiation. Course readings each week will illuminate the influence of these theories on the practice of second language education. Through critical analysis of the social, cultural, and political regimes within which identity is (re)constructed in educational contexts, we will examine the strategies and counter-strategies of individuals in imposing, resisting, and negotiating identities.

Grading: EVALUATION:

Participation (15%)

 TWO critical reader responses (15% + 15%)

 Presentation (20%)

 Final research paper (35%)

Required Texts: The students will download articles via sfu library. Students can locate and access the required course readings via SFU library's various online databases (e.g., ERIC). There is no textbook required for this course.

Recommended Texts: None

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: None

Notes: Students in all Faculty of Education courses are responsible for knowing policies pertaining to academic integrity available on the website:

<http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student.html>.

What is academic integrity? Check out <http://students.sfu.ca/academicintegrity.html>

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