

Literacy, Education and Culture

Education 341

Section: E100

Term: 2009 Fall

Instructor: Dr. Suzanne Smythe
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Location, Day & Time: Monday 4:30-7:20pm EDB 8620F

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 deep and far-reaching impacts 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 collide.

Grading: 1.\x09Course reading responses and course participation 25%

2.\x09Individual/small group presentation \x09\x09 35%

3.\x09Final project \x09\x09\x09\x09
40%

Weekly one-page course reading responses will be shared with peers and read by the instructor. Individual/small group presentations will be self-evaluated and instructor-evaluated. Final projects invite individual participants to pursue a literacy issue of interest and relevance to their practice. Multiple modes of presentation including essays, computer-based and web 2.0 technologies, art, drama, photo-essays and so on are encouraged. Participants are invited to contribute to class activities by suggesting and contributing relevant articles, visual and digital texts, video and audio material.

Required Texts: Street, B. & Lefstein, A. (2007). Literacy: An Advanced Resource Book for Students. London/New York: Routledge.

This text will be used as a reference alongside readings supplied by the instructor

Recommended Texts: Manguel, A. (1996). A History of Reading. Toronto, ON: A.A. Knopf Canada.

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: 60 Credit hours

Notes:

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.