

2009-3



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
THINKING OF THE WORLD

**EDUCATION 879**  
**Lev Vygotsky's Theories in Education**  
**(Enroll #13000)**

Fall Semester 2009	Instructor:	Dr. Natalia Gajdamaschko	
Meeting Dates:	Sept. 11/12/25/26	Office:	
	Oct. 2/3/23/24		
	Nov. 6/7/20/21		
Times:	Fridays: 4:30 – 9:00 pm	Telephone:	
	Saturdays: 8:30 – 4:30 pm		
Location:	SFU Surrey Campus	Email:	Nataliag@sfu.ca
Room:	SUR 5060		

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**DESCRIPTION**

The course will cover all major aspects of Lev Vygotsky's cultural-historical activity theory of human development and its contemporary applications in education. The course will start with an introduction to Vygotskian theory and a discussion of Vygotskian texts. Some of the concepts to be discussed include: the zone of proximal development, mediation and development of higher psychological functions, language and consciousness, interfunctional relations, and “tool-and-result” methodology.

The second part of the course will be built around practical applications of Vygotskian theory in imaginative education. This part will provide students with an opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of the essential features of Vygotsky's work and its implications for their practice.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

- 1) Vygotsky, L. S. (1978). *Mind in society: The development of higher psychological processes*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. ISBN:0-674-57629-2.
- 2) *Vygotsky's Educational Theory in Cultural Context* (2003) Kozulin & others (Eds.) Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0-521-52883-6
- 3) *The Cambridge Companion to Vygotsky*. Edited by H.Daniels, M.Cole, J.Wertsch. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-0-521-53787-2

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Participate in the discussion of the readings, your own research on the topics, and class activities 20%

Class Presentation 30%

Paper/Project (submitted twice) 50%

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT**

All members of the University community share the responsibility for the academic standards and reputation of SFU. Academic honesty is a condition of continued membership in the university community. Please review the Policy at <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-02.htm>