

**The University of British Columbia  
Department of Educational Studies**

**EDST 583A Advanced Seminar in Lifelong Learning  
Summer Term 2a: July 2-19, 2013  
Ponderosa F, Room 203**

Instructor: Nancy Jackson, Assoc. Prof Emerita, University of Toronto  
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This course will explore the complex terrain of lifelong learning and its growing presence in public policies and in popular imaginations. Western systems of education have been built on the belief that most learning goes on amongst the young. But in the post war era, the capacity of adults to go on learning has come to be seen as a vast, mostly untapped, 'human resource' to be mobilized, managed and regulated to serve a variety of competing interests. The results are often a maze of contradictions.

In this course, we will examine several familiar domains in which discourses of learning increasingly shape policy and practice in public or private sectors. This might include the growing requirement for continuing professional education, the mandating of employee development plans as a core management practice, and/or the advent of standardized international tools to monitor adult literacy levels as indicators of national competitiveness. We will explore the social relations that both give rise to and are sustained by these arrangements, including the forms of subjectivity that are constructed and normalized. We will explore, through both the scholarly literature and through reflection on life experiences, the range of outcomes and the distributions of benefits associated with these regimes of learning.

This is a 3-week intensive, participatory seminar; daily preparation time is essential. There will be 1-2 required readings **per day**, and each student will be required to prepare and submit daily one question for class discussion, based on a close reading of these materials. Each week every student will be required to submit a briefing paper based on readings and class discussion. The third briefing paper will be due a few days after the end of the course and will serve as the final assignment.

Nancy Jackson is a Professor Emerita from the Department of Adult Education and Counseling Psychology, OISE/UT. She has been researching in the area of adult literacy, workplace literacy, critical studies of work and working knowledge, political economy of skills training, gender and skill, lifelong learning and policy and women and adult education.