

## **EDST 503 (Section 021) FOUNDATIONS OF ADULT LEARNING AND EDUCATION**

Winter Term 1, September to December 2014

Tuesday, 4:30-7:30pm, Pond F 203

Instructor: Shauna Butterwick

Professor's Office: WMAX 102

TEL: 604-822-3897

E-mail: shauna.butterwick@ubc.ca

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What is adult education? Is it taking courses to complete schooling, upgrading high school grades for college entrance, or learning how to read and write? It's all of these and much more. In this course students will learn just how wide the field is and how adults' lives are filled with various moments of learning and teaching others, both formally and informally. It is so common that it can be taken-for-granted and is often invisible unless you begin to pay attention. Adult learning is lifelong and life-wide. It does not stop when formal schooling and post-secondary education has been completed. It occurs in many locations and with diverse groups of people. For example, adult learning and education is happening when employees take training through their human resource development units, when unionized workers study their rights and how to create healthy workplaces, when newly arrived immigrants learn to navigate a new country and its systems and values, when activists engage in movements for social justice and learn to organize and educate the public, when adults take classes about home renovation at their local hardware store, when community members come together to create more inclusive and safe neighborhoods, when staff and volunteers in non-profit organizations provide services, when visitors to museums and art galleries learn about history and aesthetic expression, when residents of a care home learn how to keep fit, when professionals participate in continuing education, and so on.

In this course, students will be introduced to the breadth of the field as outlined above. A key focus will be the Canadian field of adult education, its history and how it is organized institutionally, nonformally and informally. Students will also explore what adult education means in different parts of the world and from different cultural perspectives. By the end of the course, everyone should have a solid foundation in the field of adult learning and education (hence, the course title), and a better sense of their location within it.

Required Text Book: (on order from the UBC bookstore)

*Building on Critical Traditions – Adult Education and Learning in Canada.* 2013

Edited by Tom Nesbit, Susan Brigham, Nancy Taber and Tara Gibb

Thompson Educational Publishing