





Education (EDUC) 309

The Purposes of Adult Education (Revision 2)

Status:

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

Delivery mode:

Individualized study online  with eText 

Credits:

3

Areas of study:

Arts or Social Science

Prerequisites:

None

Precluded:

EDUC 401. EDUC 309 may not be taken for credit if credit has already been obtained for EDUC 401.

Challenge:

EDUC 309 is not available for challenge.

Faculty:

[Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 

Overview

After completing this course, you should be able to



- critically discuss the foundations of adult education.
- describe the dominant theoretical perspectives in adult education and relate them to practice.
- identify and discuss the key social, economic, political, and technological issues that currently affect adult education.
- analyze an adult education issue using an integrated approach.
- discuss how adult education theory relates to distance education.
- express an informed, critical perspective on the purpose of Canadian adult education in a global context

Outline


To help you attain these goals, the course has been designed around seven units:

- Unit 1: Exploring the Foundations of Adult Education
- Unit 2: Understanding the Social Aspect of Adult Education
- Unit 3: Education for Economy
- Unit 4: Education for Transformation
- Unit 5: Education for Diversity
- Unit 6: Education at a Distance: Online and Open
- Unit 7: Canadian Adult Education in a Global Context

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for EDUC 309, you must complete all of the assignments, and achieve at least **D (50 percent)**  on each. The weighting of the course assignments is as follows:

| Activity | Weight |
|--|---------------|
| Assignment 1: Chapter Review | 25% |
| Assignment 2: Two Short Essays | 20% |
| Assignment 3: Education Program Critique | 20% |
| Assignment 4: Essay | 30% |
| Course Participation: Tutor Contact* | 5% |
| Total | 100% |


To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#) .


***Note:** Five per cent of the final grade is based on your participation in the course. You can earn this five per cent by emailing your tutor at the completion of your last assignment and sending a 2–3 paragraph email on how adult ed might address future issues of engagement in society. Mark this email as PARTICIPATION Grade.

Materials

Spencer, B., & Lange, E. (2014). *The purposes of adult education: An introduction* (3rd ed.). Toronto, ON: Thompson Educational Publishing.

 (eText)

Nesbit, T., Brigham, S. M., Taber, N., & Gibb, T. (Eds.). (2013). *Building on critical traditions: Adult education and learning in Canada*. Toronto, ON: Thompson Educational Publishing.  (Print)

Lotz, J., & Welton, M. R. (1997). *Father Jimmy: The life and times of Jimmy Tompkins*. Wreck Cove, Cape Breton Island, NS: Breton Books.  (Print)

eText

Registration in this course includes an electronic textbook. For more information on **electronic textbooks** [↗](#), please refer to our **eText Initiative site** [↗](#).

Other Materials

All other course materials can be accessed online via the course website

Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) [↗](#)
- › [Program planning](#) [↗](#)
- › [Request assistance](#) [↗](#)
- › [Support services](#) [↗](#)

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 2, May 21, 2014

Updated June 5, 2024

View [previous revision](#) [↗](#)
