

Plato's Cave and Media Literacy

The course title *Inside Plato's Cave* is based on a parable in Plato's Republic. Plato describes the situation of prisoners trapped in a cave who only see flickering shadows of the outside world cast on the wall of the cave. Unable to escape, these phantom images are the only reality they know. Only knowledge, Plato suggests, can enlarge our perceptions and liberate us from these illusions. The creators of *Inside Plato's Cave* selected the title to represent the need for universal media literacy in the Information Age.

The media are now, arguably, our culture's primary symbolic system. They will certainly be so throughout the next century. Those who do not understand how the media work, how they construct meanings, how they may be used, and how the evidence they present can be weighed and evaluated are, in contemporary cultures, considerably disadvantaged and disempowered.

LEN MASTERMAN, Media Educator

An online 3-credit course

The course is designed especially for grades 7-12 teachers who want to help their students develop an informed and critical understanding of the nature, impact and techniques of the mass media. The course and the interactive discussion forums that accompany the units will help teachers understand media theory, and then transform theory into practice as they develop lessons for their own students and teaching situations. Teachers can take this 13 unit course as a six week summer session or study at their own pace during the year.

"When I think about this project and the potential it has to change the way our students can be taught I feel as though a giant weight is lifted. This is just what our students need teachers who have a grasp on the complex media machine and an understanding of how to teach about it... The potential for this project has me awake at night and dreaming of the possibilities."

CONNIE MORRISON, Teacher, St. John's

Inside Plato's Cave

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

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FACE TO FACE MEDIA

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UNDERSTANDING MEDIA LITERACY

Inside Plato's Cave

AN ONLINE COURSE FOR TEACHERS

 Athabasca
University

UNDERSTANDING MEDIA LITERACY

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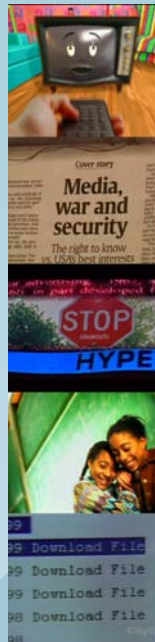
Teacher Reviews

"I believe that Plato's Cave is an incredible resource... Overall I believe it has the power to educate and inspire all kinds of teachers and their students across Canada and North America..."

JOAN BRYCE

"I don't have any formal media studies training, so the course has been really informational and full of engaging activities. I really liked the set up of the lessons with the overview, lesson summary, and lesson breakdowns. I felt like I could use a similar outline for teaching a semestered Media Course, and use various concepts for teaching media components in English courses."

KYLIE LOZON



The Units

- Introduction to Media Education
- Media Literacy and the Curriculum
- Canadian Pop Culture
- The Art of Persuasion
- Media and Values
- Media Language
- The News
- New(er) Technologies
- Ideology and Representation
- Audience
- Movies
- Prime Time Television
- Popular Music

AN ONLINE COURSE FOR TEACHERS

Summer session online
July 5- August 15, 2010
Registration: June 1 to June 10

Individualized study online
begins in September
Registration opens August 10

**A breakthrough course
fills a gap in media education**

Media literacy is a mandated part of the curriculum yet there is very little training available for teachers.

This 3-credit online course was developed especially for those who teach at the grade 7-12 levels, and for students of media and communications.

The course was written and tested by leading Canadian media educators and is delivered in partnership with Athabasca University.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the course website at
salsa.athabascau.ca/cmns/mediaLiteracy.php
Or use search terms: Athabasca University Plato's Cave

This course is offered as CMNS 315 and EDUC 115

 Athabasca
University