

Syllabus - Curriculum Development in the Elementary School

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On-Line Course

Fall 2012

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Curriculum and Instructional Methods for the Elementary and Middle School, 7th Ed., by Johanna K. Lemlech. Boston, Mass .: Allyn and Bacon, 2010.

A choice of one from the provided reference list

Course Competencies

New Jersey is transitioning to the Common Core Standards. The Language Arts and Math Common Core Elementary Standards will be addressed in this course.

Requirements

1. Critical reading of texts and selected references/reports
2. Participation in Threaded Discussions
3. Assigned papers/book critique
4. Video critiques
5. Reflective Journal entries
6. On-line participation

Assignments**Threaded Discussions**

Threaded Discussions are a key aspect of this course allowing for you to interact with your peers concerning important issues in the field of Elementary Curriculum Development. Your objective is to post well thought-out comments while remaining focused on the assigned discussion topic.

Written Reports/Papers

Papers and written reports should focus on your critical interpretations of significant implications of the readings. The papers should not recapitulate or summarize the readings.

Book Critique

This is a written critique focusing on your critical reactions and interpretations of significant implications of the author's thesis. You are to choose a book from the reference list provided.

Reflective Journal Entries

This is your opportunity to address issues that are important to you or raise questions specific to your particular area of interest. Entries may be guided (*based on provided information*) or totally independent. A running reflection on the readings, discussions, and

the direction of the profession would be an appropriate entry for the reflective journal.

Course Outline

Unit 1: September 4th – October 1st

Read Parts I and IV in Lemlech

Consider the historical impact of the following national reports:

A Nation At Risk

Tough Choices or Tough Times (Executive Summary)

First Threaded Discussion (topic to be announced)

(Opens September 9th – Closes September 15th)

First Critical Reaction Paper – Curriculum Challenges: Instruction and Professional Growth (Due Monday, September 24, 2012)

Reflective Journal Entries (2)

Video – To be announced

Unit 2: October 2, 2012 – November 5, 2012

Read Part II in Lemlech

Consider the implications of the *Learning Criteria* and the articles referencing the Common Core Standards (found in Doc Sharing)

Second Threaded Discussion (topic to be announced)

(Opens Sunday, November 14th – Closes Saturday, November 20th)

Continue reading the selected book

Second Critical Reaction Paper – How Teachers Teach

Reflective Journal

Entries (2)

Video – To be announced

Unit 3: November 6th to Last day of Semester

Read Part III in Lemlech

Complete Book Critique for Selected book

Third Threaded Discussion (topic to be announced)

Third Critical Reaction Paper – Implementing the Curriculum

Reflective Journal Entries (2)

Video – To be announced

Grading Policy

20% Threaded Discussions

20% Critical Reaction Papers

20% Book Critique

20% Reactions to Videos

20% Reflective Journal entries

Unit 1: Unit 1 September 4, 2012 - October 1, 2012 - Introduction to Unit 1

Unit 1: September 4 - October 1, 2012

Welcome to Unit 1

(Sept 4 - October 1, 2012)

Readings:

- "A Nation at Risk"
- Curriculum and Instructional Methods - Lemlech Parts I and IV
- The Widget Effect
- Book selected from reference list

These documents will provide you with a historical and philosophical perspective for many of the curricular and instructional initiatives and practices that are in effect today. The scenery is changing and the historical foundation provided by these readings becomes even more important as we move forward. **All of these documents are available in "Doc Sharing," except the texts.** In the interest of giving some historical and philosophical context to these reports, I have provided you with some thoughts behind these educational turning points under the content labeled "Considerations" in this unit.

The book you select from the reference list is required reading for a written report you will be assigned during the Unit 3 time period. Please allocate your time for reading accordingly.

First Threaded Discussion:

During the time period of Unit 1 you will be participating in our first threaded discussion starting September 9th and ending September 15th. This thread is designed for you to explore and interact regarding the driving forces behind the inclusion movement based upon readings from the text. You can enter this thread under the content labeled "Unit

1 Threaded Discussion." It is important that you review the "Guidelines and Grading Criteria for Threaded Discussions" that are provided under the "Grading Policy" tab in the "Course Home" unit heading before participating in this discussion. Please keep in mind that the portal for this thread will close on Saturday, September 15th.

First Written Report:

During Unit 1 we will also be working on the first written report which is due on September 24th. Instructions for this assignment are available under the option in Unit 1 labeled "Curriculum Challenges: Instruction and Professional Growth". This paper is based on the reading of Parts I and IV in Lemlich. **Submit your work through the Dropbox tab** by September 24th.

Reflective Journal Entries

At least two times during during this Unit you need to complete a reflective journal entry. This is an opportunity for you to interact directly with me concerning your thoughts on the curriculum and ideas regarding the readings that are not covered in the formal assignments. Guidance will be provided under the Reflective Journal option for each unit. This assignment should be completed using the journal tab. I will check the tab a minimum of twice weekly and respond to your posts.

Video Critique:

View the Video, *Connecting Successful Practices To Next Practices*, and follow the instructions found under the "Video Reaction" tab.

Unit 1 Due Dates:

Reflective Journal Entries

September 18th

September 27th

Threaded Discussion

September 9th - September 15th

Curriculum Challenges: Instruction and Professional Growth

September 24th

Video Reaction Paper

September 21st

Final Thoughts:

Before beginning any of the readings, starting the written report or participating in the threaded discussion, it is highly recommended that you read the contents labeled "Course Policies" and "Grading Policy" under the "Course Home" unit heading.

Unit 2: Unit 2 October 2, 2012 - November 5, 2012 - Introduction to Unit 2

Welcome to Unit 2

October 2nd - November 5th

Readings:

Lemlech Part II

Common Core Standards (Doc Sharing)

- 21st Century Skills Implementation Guide
- The Time Is Now
- Common Core - Math
- Common Core - Language Arts

The Learning Criteria (Doc Sharing)

Selected book from reference list

Video:

"Rigor and Relevance Framework"

National Reports:

- Tough Choices or Tough Times (Executive Summary) (Doc Sharing)
- The Forgotten Middle (Doc Sharing)

The reading of Part II in the text will provide you with a firm foundation concerning the important tasks of the teacher. Critical Reaction Paper #2 will involve content from this portion of the text as well. I will provide you with some key aspects of Part II under the tab labeled "Considerations" in this unit.

I will provide you with all of the documents you need for this unit (except for the texts and the video) under "**Doc Sharing**".

2nd Threaded Discussion

During the time period of Unit 2, you will be participating in our second thread which will begin on October 14th and run through October 20th. This thread is designed for you to explore the standards movement together, using the knowledge you have gleaned from the readings. You can enter this thread under the the content

labeled "The Common Standards Thread." It is important that you review the "**Guidelines and Grading Criteria for Threaded Discussions**" provided under the "**Grading Policy**" tab in the "**Course Home**" unit heading before participating in this discussion. Please keep in mind that the portal for this thread **opens on October 14th and will close on October 20th.**

Second Written Report:

Your second written report will be due on July 18th. Specific instructions will be found under the Unit 2 tab labeled Critical Reaction Paper #2 - How Teachers Teach. This paper will be similar to the one in unit one and will be based on the reading of Part II in Lemlech. As a reminder, please submit your work through the "**Drop Box**" tab by October 11th.

Reflective Journal Entries:

Reflective Journal Entries are to be completed two times during this unit. These entries provide you with an opportunity to interact directly with me concerning your thoughts on the curriculum and ideas regarding the readings that are not covered in the formal assignments. This assignment should be completed using the "**Journal**" tab. I will check the tab at least twice weekly and respond to your posts.

Video Critique:

Specific instructions for this assignment can be found under the Video Reaction Tab.

Due Dates - Unit 2

Reflective Journal Entries

October 5th

October 25th

Threaded Discussion

October 14th to October 20th

Second Critical Reaction Paper - How Teachers Teach

October 11th

Video Reaction

October 30th

Final Thoughts:

Before beginning any of the readings, starting the written report, participating in the threaded discussion, or completing the video critique and reflective journal entries, it

is highly recommended that you read the contents labeled "**Course Policies**" and "**Grading Policy**" under the "**Course Home**" unit heading.

Unit 3: Unit 3 November 6, 2012 to December 13, 2012 - Introduction to Unit 3 (HIDDEN TO STUDENTS)

Unit 3: November 6, 2012 - December 13, 2012

Welcome to Unit 3

November 6, 2012, to December 13, 2012

Readings:

Lemlech Part III

Selected book from reference list

National Report:

Slow Off The Mark (Doc Sharing)

Videos:

"Preparing Students for Their Future and Not Our Past"

Overview:

The readings from Part III in the text will provide a synthesis of the disciplines covered in the elementary curriculum. Critical reaction paper #3 will focus on this section of the book. I will provide key ideas from Part III under the tab labeled "Considerations - Unit 3". The Threaded discussion for this unit will focus our attention toward the disruptive effects of technology on the elementary curriculum going forward. The reflective journal entries will cover two key aspects. The first will call for your reaction to another national report. Reactions to date have been thoughtful, analytical and scholarly, as well as generative of potential solutions. The second journal entry will give you an opportunity to reflect on the value of this course when compared to your future aspirations. The video will focus your attention on the economic forces impacting education in the future and get you thinking about how we answer the question, "Why do we need to change?"

3rd Threaded Discussion:

Both of the previous Threads were well thoughtout and on point. I am looking

forward to the same high level of participation and reasoned thought linking previous readings with the topic at hand. Our third threaded discussion will begin on November 11, 2012, and run through November 17, 2012. This thread is designed for you to apply the knowledge you have gleaned from the readings and discussion to date to the long term effects on the elementary curriculum we can expect as a result of advances in technology. It is important that you review the "Guidelines and Grading Criteria for Threaded Discussions" provided under the "Grading Policy" tab in the "Course Home" unit heading before participating in this discussion. Please keep in mind that the portal for this thread opens on November 11th and will close on the 17th. The grading guidelines call for a minimum of seven (7) posts on your part.

Third Written Report:

Your third written report is due on November 27th. Specific instructions will be found under the Unit 3 tab labeled Critical Reaction Paper #3 - Implementing the Curriculum. This paper will be a little different from the previous two and will be based upon the reading of Part III in the Lemlech book. As a reminder, please submit your work through the "Drop Box" tab by November 27th.

Reflective Journal Entries:

Reflective Journal Entries are to be completed two times during this unit. These entries provide you with an opportunity to interact directly with me concerning your thoughts on the curriculum and ideas regarding the readings that are not covered through the formal assignments. This assignment should be completed using the "Journal" tab. I will check the tab at least twice weekly and respond to your posts. Specific directions can be found under the Unit 3 subheading "Reflective Journal Entries (Unit 3)".

Book Critique:

This is your written critique of the book you selected from the reference list. You should focus on critical reactions and interpretations of significant implications of the author's thesis. More specific instructions are located under the Unit 3 tab titled "Book Critique". The critique is due on December 3rd.

Due Dates Unit 3:

Reflective Journal Entries

November 9th

December 6th

Book critique

December 3rd

Unit Three Threaded Discussion

November 11th to November 17th

Third Critical Reaction Paper

November 27th

Unit Three Video Reaction Paper

November 19th

Final Thoughts:

Before beginning any of the readings, starting the written report, participating in the threaded discussion, completing the book critique or completing the reflective journal entries, it is highly recommended that you read the contents labeled "**Course Policies**" and "**Grading Policy**" under the "**Course Home**" unit heading.

This has been a fast-paced course requiring you to stay on top of deadlines and submit logical, well-thoughtout, scholarly work. I have been impressed with your level of commitment and organizational skills. Finish strong.