

**Rutgers University**  
**Syllabus for 15:310:500:91**  
**Curriculum and Instruction**  
**Fall 2012**  
**Dr. William DeFabiis**  
[defabiis@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:defabiis@rci.rutgers.edu)

## **Introduction**

Welcome to what I hope will be an informative, enriching and exciting educational experience for each of you. As we discuss, explore and analyze current theories, initiatives and practices in two major areas of our profession which are inextricably intertwined, Curriculum and Instruction, a historical-philosophical perspective will be integrated into our journey for the purpose of providing insight into their origins. To this end, I will be providing several original reports for you to read. The textbook I have selected for this course will serve as a resource for you to gather additional information and opinions, and to formulate a broader understanding on the intent and success of the initiatives promulgated in these documents. Of course, the internet is also a viable resource for you to utilize. It is hoped that your reflection on the readings and the discussions that you will be undertaking and participating in during this course will provide you with insight into the beginnings and formulation of current theories, initiatives and practices, and, most importantly, will enable you to develop your professional position on current issues in the design of curriculum and the nature of instruction.

## **Course Description**

**15:310:500 Curriculum and Instruction:** Integrated view of problems of curriculum and instruction at the elementary and secondary levels, including (1) the various roles of the professional teacher, (2) problems of curriculum design, and (3) interrelationships between current issues and social forces.

## **Textbook**

Although I intend to provide you with several readings/slides/presentations/videos during this course, the Tanner textbook can serve you well as a valuable resource for this course and in the future. So, referencing it as you complete the reports assigned and as you participate in our threaded discussions will be valuable. I highly recommend this textbook to you for your professional library. It can be purchased at the university bookstore. The Rosen book is required reading and will be needed to complete one of the written reports. This book can also be purchased at the university bookstore.

Tanner, Daniel, and Laurel Tanner. 2007. Curriculum Development: Theory into Practice. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Education, Inc.  
ISBN-13: 978-0-13-086473-4

Rosen, Larry D. 2010. Rewired: Understanding the iGeneration and the Way They Learn. New York, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.  
ISBN-13: 978-0-230-61478-9

## Course Policies

Please Read Carefully

**Questions:** If you have general questions regarding the syllabus, similar to those that would be asked at the beginning of a "face to face" class, please post them to the "Housekeeping" thread and I will try to clarify. In fact it is important during this course that you frequently **check** the "Housekeeping" thread to see if a policy question you may have was raised by a classmate and answered in housekeeping.

Since this is an on-line course, your full participation in the course materials in E-course is required. It is important that you log into E-course frequently to read and participate in new discussions.

**You are responsible for staying on top of your assignments.** Once in a while E-course has a problem moving files around and I may need to contact you by e-mail. So, **it is important that you check your Rutgers e-mail (not your personal e-mail).**

**Discussion threads:** particular emphasis must be placed on responding **in a timely fashion** to the postings of the members in your group. You are also responsible for the communication in your group's discussion threads. While I am in no way prohibiting discussions of material outside of E-course (in fact I am hoping for it), when I am grading your class participation all I have access to is what is on E-course. Therefore, if you have a good discussion in another format, i.e., text messaging, e-mails, be sure to post your thoughts in E-course.

I have posted a **rubric for grading threaded discussions** under the "Grading Policy" tab of this "Course Home" unit. This rubric describes how I will be grading on-line participation during this course. Even though I will not respond to every posting, I will be reading your responses for quality of thought, quality of expression and I will also be looking at when you respond. Needless to say, it is easier to respond to the topic/issues if you post early, before everyone else "tackled" the topic/issue. So, beware of always being among the last respondents in a discussion. I will be reading all discussions and posting comments where I think necessary. Please keep in mind that I do expect you to respond to my questions and directions in these postings within forty-eight (48) hours.

**Written reports:** Your postings in threaded discussions are not an issue since I have access to them. Here are some instructions for submitting your written reports. Carefully follow the instructions on the activity. **All written reports are to be completed in Word, saved as Word documents and submitted using the Dropbox tab. Please do not upload your assignments to Doc Sharing. Use the Dropbox tab and choose the appropriate assignment from the drop down menu. All assignments are to be forwarded to me in this manner on or before the due date – no exceptions.**

The course policies and the syllabus are subject to revisions which will be posted in the "Announcements" section of E-course and you are expected to stay on top of changes made. It is your responsibility to check back frequently!

## Course Outline

## Unit 1: September 4<sup>th</sup> to October 6<sup>th</sup>

- Historical impact of seminal educational publications
  - “A Nation at Risk”
  - “The Road to Charlottesville – The 1989 Summit”
  - “America 2000”
  - “Goals 2000”
  - “NCLB”
  - “World Class Education”
- “The Changing Curriculum” – Threaded Discussion #1
  - September 16<sup>th</sup> (opens) – September 22<sup>nd</sup> (closes)
- “Historical-Philosophical” (1<sup>st</sup> Report)
  - due – October 6<sup>th</sup>

## Unit 2: October 7<sup>th</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup>

- New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards
  - Content Standards
  - Strands
  - Cumulative Progress Indicators
- Common Core State Standards
- “Instructional Philosophy” - Impact on Curriculum and Instruction of an Administrator’s Philosophy of Education in a Variety of Subject Areas - Writing, Reading, Mathematics, Science, etc. – Threaded Discussion #2
  - October 7<sup>th</sup> (opens) – October 13<sup>th</sup> (closes)
- “Curriculum-Instruction” (2<sup>nd</sup> Report)
  - due – October 27<sup>th</sup>
- “Standards Based Reform Movement” – Threaded Discussion #3
  - November 4<sup>th</sup> (opens) – November 10<sup>th</sup> (closes)
- “Common Core State Standards” (3<sup>rd</sup> Report)
  - TEAC Demonstration Task
  - due – November 17<sup>th</sup>

## Unit 3: November 18<sup>th</sup> to December 12<sup>th</sup>

- “A New and Better Mindset?” – Threaded Discussion #4
  - November 25<sup>th</sup> (opens) – December 1<sup>st</sup> (closes)
- The Influence of Technology on Curriculum and Instruction
- “Technology” (4<sup>th</sup> Report)
  - due – December 12<sup>th</sup>

## Grading Policy

*Criteria:* Overall assessment for this course is based on four (4) written reports and participation in four (4) threaded discussions.

20%	“Historical-Philosophical” Report
20%	“New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards” Report TEAC Demonstration Task (required)
20%	“Curriculum-Instruction” Report
20%	“Technology” Report
20%	Participation in four (4) threaded discussions

*Grade Scale:* The grading scale for this course follows the “Grades and Grading Policy” of the Graduate School of Education which is as follows:

Grade	Definition	Numerical Equivalent
A	Outstanding	4.0
B+		3.5
B	Good	3.0
C+		2.5
C	Satisfactory	2.0
F	Failing	0.0

The Graduate School of Education does not assign the grades of D or D+ in its courses nor are minus grades assigned. Late papers: Assignments will be marked one half grade down (5%) for each twenty-four (24) hours they are late. There’s usually a grace period – don’t worry if you turn in your assignment at 1 a.m. versus midnight for example.

## Water Cooler

The “Water Cooler” thread is your place to post and discuss any ideas that are of general interest to the class which are not specifically related to the course threaded discussions or assigned reports. **Also**, the “Water Cooler” thread is a place to post (share) citations, with a brief overview/summary, of related sources – periodical publications, newspaper articles, books, etc. - which would supplement, complement or enrich the readings and/or discussions specifically undertaken during our course. Participation in this thread is optional but highly recommended. Strong consideration will be given to **extra-credit** for **significant** contributions to our "Water Cooler" which supplement, complement or enrich our course readings or discussions.

## “Housekeeping” and “Virtual Office Hours”

Besides e-mail, there will be two additional ways to address questions and concerns during this course, i.e., the “Housekeeping” thread provided in the course and “Virtual Office Hours” using the “Live” tab provided in e-college. The “Housekeeping” option is always available throughout the course. Every Wednesday, starting with Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, during this course from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., “Virtual Office Hours” for the entire class will be scheduled. “Virtual Office Hours” can also be individually arranged upon request.

## **Rutgers University Libraries**

The Rutgers University Libraries option under the “Course Home” section of our course is your connection to the rich resources offered by the Rutgers University Libraries. You can use this link to get research help related to this class and to contact the librarian who specializes in education.

## **Policy on Academic Integrity**

The Rutgers University “Policy on Academic Integrity,” including policies on adjudication and policy administration as well as acknowledgements and footnotes, is available by visiting: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

## **Disability Accommodation Policy**

Any student who believes that s/he may need an accommodation in this class due to a disability should contact Marie Pavelchak, Continuing Education and Global Programs Administrative Coordinator, at (732)-932-7496 ext 8202 or [marie.pavelchak@gse.rutgers.edu](mailto:marie.pavelchak@gse.rutgers.edu), in order to receive accommodations. Any student who has already received a letter of accommodation should contact the instructor at [defabiis@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:defabiis@rci.rutgers.edu) to discuss implementation of his/her accommodations. Failure to discuss implementation of accommodations with the instructor promptly may result in denial of your accommodations.

## **Important Notice**

*Prior to accessing this online course(s) or course supplement, please be sure that you are registered, have a valid Rutgers NetID (network identifier), Password and Rutgers email account.*

The **Rutgers NetID** is the standard login credential for RutgersOnline, however, your initial password will be unique to RutgersOnline and will not necessarily be the same password that you use for a Rutgers email account (e.g. eden, pegasus, clam).

**Confirmations of login and password are sent via email to your Rutgers default email address (usually your Rutgers email account).** You should have received your RutgersOnline login information by email shortly after you registered and paid for this course. For more information about Rutgers NetID, please visit: [Rutgers NetID](#)

If you do not know your login or have questions concerning your login please email [webmaster@ecompanion.rutgers.edu](mailto:webmaster@ecompanion.rutgers.edu) or call 732-932-4702.

Also, you can contact Marie Pavelchak at (732)-932-7496 ext 8202 or [marie.pavelchak@gse.rutgers.edu](mailto:marie.pavelchak@gse.rutgers.edu) to ensure that your current contact information is on record.