

Classroom Organization and Management

15:255:534

1 Credit

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Office Hours: by appointment	Prerequisites or other limitations: Admission to the GSE Teacher Education Programs Co-Requisites: 15:255:533; 15:255:535; 15:255:536
Mode of Instruction: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lecture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seminar <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid <input type="checkbox"/> Online <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Permission required: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Directions about where to get permission numbers: from the instructor

Learning goals

Standard Two: Teachers shall understand how children and adolescents develop and learn in a variety of school, family and community contexts and provide opportunities that support their intellectual, social, emotional and physical development.

Standard Six: Teachers shall understand individual and group motivation and behavior and shall create a supportive, safe and respectful learning environment that encourages positive social interaction, active engagement in learning and self-motivation.

Course catalogue description

This course is an examination of research on classroom organization and management. There is an emphasis on strategies for effective learning environments and prevention of behavior problems. This course is based on two premises: (1) that most problems of classroom order can be prevented through the use of good classroom management strategies, positive teacher-student relationships, and engaging instruction; and (2) that the goal of classroom management is not obedience, but the development of students' ability to regulate their own behavior. Given these premises, the course focuses not on disciplinary interventions designed to control students, but on ways of preventing disruptive behavior, creating a peaceful, caring community, resolving conflicts, and meeting students' needs. As such, we will distinguish between low-profile desists for minor classroom disruptions and disciplinary action for significant student misbehavior

Class materials:

Weinstein, C. S., & Mignano, A. J. (2010). Elementary Classroom Management: Lessons from Research and Practice (5th edition). NY: McGraw-Hill.

Grading and Activities

This course will be graded in terms of Pass/No Credit. Grades will be submitted to the registrar after course requirements are met. The Classroom Management Plan is a Middle Phase Portfolio artifact and will be scored according to the rubric below.

Written Requirements

1. Thinking on paper: These will be done at the beginning of most classes and will follow varying formats. For example, we might ask you to write for one minute about something you learned from the reading; something you didn't agree with; something you found relevant to your own classroom; or something you didn't understand. Other times we might ask you to reflect on a specific issue discussed in the chapter. These will sometimes be handed in.

2. Reflections on reading and observations: Each class session you will be expected to reflect on the assigned reading and to relate what you are reading to what you have seen in your practicum placements. These two-page reflections (typed, double-spaced) should adhere to the following format: (a) **a one-page summary of the reading**, focusing on any points you found most significant, compelling, confusing, or wrongheaded; (b) the lessons you have derived from the reading and observations (e.g., what you will try to do in your own classroom; what you think is most important to remember, etc.); (c) a description of your cooperating teachers' practices with regard to the issue under consideration. If your reflection paper does not include a summary of the key points, you will be asked to re-do it.

3. Classroom Organization and Management Plan (GSEe-Portfolio Requirement)

Part 1:

Create a classroom management plan for your own classroom (approximate length 6-8 pages, typed, double-spaced). Reflect on what you have read and learned in your courses and on your experiences during your internship. Then develop a plan that addresses the following questions:

- What are the goal(s) of your classroom management plan? (This goal statement should serve as an introduction to your plan and should be approximately 1-2 paragraphs. The rest of the plan should be consistent with this statement.)
- What will you do, starting on the very first day, to create a sense of community and caring?
- What specific rules will guide classroom behavior? Describe the process you will use to develop and teach these rules to your students (e.g., Will you develop and distribute them or will you generate them with the students?)
- What will you do if students violate classroom rules? Be sure to discuss strategies for minor misbehavior (e.g., chatting, staring into space, and calling out) as well as strategies for more serious misbehavior. What principles underlie your choice of strategies?
- What procedures or routines will you establish for (1) collecting homework, (2) going to the restroom, (3) taking attendance, and (4) keeping track of work for absent students?

Note: Your management plan should demonstrate your understanding of sound, generally accepted management goals, principles, concepts, and strategies. (In other words, you should avoid adopting strategies that cause public humiliation to students, that erode positive student-teacher relationships, or that foster compliance rather than self-regulation.)

Part 2:

Since definitions and expectations of appropriate behavior are culturally influenced, managing today's diverse classrooms requires teachers to be "culturally responsive classroom managers." Demonstrate your

understanding of culturally responsive classroom management (CRCM) by completing the following tasks (approximately 2 pages):

- Draw upon readings and class discussions to discuss two specific examples of the kinds of conflicts that can occur in classrooms when there is a “cultural gap” between teachers and students and when teachers ignore students’ cultural backgrounds. (1 page)
- Discuss three ways you can work to enact culturally responsive classroom management in your classroom. For example, you might discuss how you would be culturally responsive when working with parents, communicating with students, establishing your expectations, and/or designing the physical environment of the classroom. (1 page)

Grading Rubric

GSE criterion to be assessed	0 Absent or very incomplete	1 Does not meet GSE expectations	2 Meets GSE expectations	3 Exceeds GSE expectations
Part I				
Writing is clear, well-organized, and well-edited.				
Assignment shows an understanding of sound management goals, principles, concepts, and strategies				
Answers provide specific, appropriate detail and examples				
Assignment is thorough and complete				
Assignment shows evidence of reading, reflection, and critical thinking				
Specifics of management plan are consistent with stated goals				
Part II				
Provides appropriate examples of “cultural gaps” that might occur.				
Provides examples of culturally responsive classroom management.				
Assignment is thorough and complete.				

Your Classroom Management paper must be uploaded as a **.docx** to the GSE’s Teacher Education Sakai site by the final session in order to receive credit.

Description of activities

Attendance, participation in class discussions:

Attendance and participation in each class meeting are crucial for your learning..

Given the fact that this course meets only five times and relies heavily on student participation, we expect perfect attendance. If illness or emergency prevents you from attending, you will have to arrange with your instructor to compensate for your absence (e.g., by completing additional written work).

It is also ESSENTIAL to be punctual. My aim is to use the time efficiently so we'll be starting on time each day!

Academic integrity: Make sure that you provide proper citations for all materials that you use in Classroom Management Plan.

Tentative list of topics for discussions (by week)

Week	Topic	Assignment for next session (Chapter)	NJCCCS
9/3	What qualities does an effective classroom manager have? How does effective management impact student success	1,2,4	6.1 6.2
9/17	ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR BEHAVIOR AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR What is classroom management? What organizational systems and/or behavioral strategies have you observed in your practicums?	3, CRCM article	6.7 6.8 6.9 6.10 6.11 6.12
10/1	BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE, MORE CARING COMMUNITY IN A CULTURALLY DIVERSE CLASSROOM How can I foster a classroom climate of respect and caring? What are some ways to become a CRCM?	9,10, 12	2.3 2.4
10/15	WHEN PREVENTION IS NOT ENOUGH: DEALING WITH INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR How can my use of Independent and Small Group Assignments support my classroom management? What can I do to prevent potentially explosive	5	6.5 6.6 6.12

	situations from escalating?		
10/29	<p>REFLECTING ON CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT AND THE INTERNSHIP & HELPING STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS</p> <p>What are the managerial successes and challenges of my internship? What accommodations have you learned for working with students?</p>		<p>6.3</p> <p>6.4</p>