

Internship Seminar: Early Childhood/Elementary Education
255:536
Fall 2013, Thursdays, 4:50-7:30
Murray 111

INSTRUCTOR:

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GOALS OF THE COURSE

The Internship Seminar in Early Childhood/Elementary Education accompanies and supports the student teaching experience. The seminar has three main goals: (1) to provide a safe, supportive forum in which you can reflect on your internship and share your joys, accomplishments, frustrations, and questions; (2) to help you prepare for the job search process; (3) to consider specific strategies for building a caring, inclusive, rigorous learning environment that involves families, fosters students' social-emotional development, and addresses the needs of children with diverse needs. Generally, class sessions will be comprised of group discussions about what is happening in your internships; a lesson reflection (see description below); and an activity, presentation, or discussion on the evening's topic. There will be several weeks when we have guest speakers or workshops from Career Services.

READINGS: Readings available on SAKAI

Additional readings will come from Weinstein, C. *Classroom Organization*

REQUIREMENTS

Online Portfolios (60%): There are elements from this course that are required for your official GSE online portfolio (teacher/student/family reflection paper; lesson plan; unit plan). These documents will need to be uploaded to your SAKAI portfolio site. Directions for uploading documents for your official online portfolio are available at <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/site/9c48fb03-ec35-42e4-b1b2-b02be8ff8e91>

- **One detailed lesson plan and a 1-2 page reflection on the lesson (20%) (REQUIRED FOR LATE PHASE OF ONLINE PORTFOLIO)** including what worked and why, what did not go so well and why, and ideas for what you would do differently in the future. It is recommended that this lesson be your videotaped lesson. This lesson does not have to be from the Unit Plan. This lesson plan must follow the GSE format. (Guidelines and rubric available in the portfolio folder in the resources section on SAKAI). **Must be uploaded no later than December 12th.**

- **A detailed Unit Plan (20%) for a sequence of at least 5 lessons in a cohesive unit and a 1 page reflection on the unit.** (REQUIRED FOR LATE PHASE OF ONLINE PORTFOLIO) The plan must be interdisciplinary (meaning it can be focused on one subject (i.e. science), but it must include at least one lesson that is from another subject area (i.e. literacy). You should also provide a 1 page reflection on the plan that includes what worked and why, what did not go so well and why, and ideas for what you would do differently in the future. (Guidelines and rubric available in the portfolio folder in the resources section on SAKAI) **Must be uploaded no later than October 24th.**
- **Teacher/Student/Family Collaboration Paper (20%):** (REQUIRED FOR MIDDLE PHASE OF ONLINE PORTFOLIO) Working with families is a major part of the elementary school teacher's job. During your internship you will have opportunities to observe or participate in parent meetings. You will write a reflection paper of 3-5 pages on Teacher/Student Family Collaborations in which you participated in at either a "Back to School Night" or a "Parent/Teacher Conference" during your student internship. The paper should also draw upon readings, discussions, and activities regarding building family and community relationships from the Individual and Cultural Diversity course. (Guidelines and rubric available in the portfolio folder in the resources section on SAKAI) **This paper should be uploaded no later than November 21th.**

Student Teaching Journal (15%): Improving teaching is about reflecting and analyzing one's practice. You will keep a "participant observer log" of your student teaching experience. You are expected to write at least one entry per week about your internship experience. Each entry should be no less than 1 page and no more than 2 typed pages. Keep all journal entries together in one document which you will then upload to your dropbox on SAKAI (only the instructor will have access). Your journal entries will be read and responded to by the instructor three times over the semester. At the end of the semester you are to look back over your entries and compile a summative statement of what you have learned as a teacher, what continues to be your challenges, and some of the actions you intend to take to continue to expand your expertise.

Videotaped Lesson (15%): You will share a video clip of a lesson, project, activity, etc. that you carried out during the internship. The class (or a sub-section of the class) will view your clip and provide feedback to help you extend your thinking about the lesson. The purpose of this presentation is for you to receive assistance from your fellow students and then use their feedback to reflect on and improve your teaching. For this assignment, videotape yourself teaching a 30-minute lesson and then select a 10-minute clip to share with the class. Think about what you would like to know from the class and create three questions for them to consider as they view the clip. **Email me a copy of the lesson & the 3 questions by noon on the Wednesday before you present.** You also need to provide a handout of your lesson plan and the feedback questions, for each group member. After you share your video and receive the feedback

from your peers, it is useful to gather their notes and responses to incorporate in your lesson reflection (see lesson plan instructions above).

As elementary or middle school teachers you will be expected to handle a variety of technologies often without a lot of training. Therefore, part of this assignment is to successfully present your clip to the class. **This means that you will be responsible for ensuring that you can play your clip with sound on your assigned day.** You will need to determine what equipment you need, provide it yourself or make sure we have it available. We will need at least one week before your presentation to reserve any equipment you might need. You will not receive credit for this assignment if you cannot play the clip and you will lose points if the playing of the clip takes an excessive amount of time. For this assignment you must turn in a lesson plan and feedback questions by noon on Wednesday of the week you share your clip.

Class Participation (10%): You've taught all day and then driven to Rutgers. You're tired, you have lesson plans to do, and there's a big pile of papers to grade. It's easy to find a seat in the back and do the work that's more pressing. But seminar will succeed or fail according to the extent that students participate. Our interactions truly create this course. We expect you to be actively engaged in course discussions and activities and to be sensitive to other students' needs and concerns. We also expect you to bring the appropriate items to class (listed on the syllabus) to prompt and inform our discussions. Please note: At times, individuals will share information about the internship that is sensitive and potentially embarrassing. For this reason, comments made in class are to be considered confidential.

Written work will be evaluated in terms of the following criteria:

Completeness. All artifacts should be included and should conform to the expectations established for the assignment. (In other words, if the instructions say to include a 1-2 paragraph commentary, do so.)

Evidence of understanding of course content. Your work should demonstrate that you understand the ideas presented in the class and that you are able to apply the ideas in your work as a teacher. (In other words, your cooperative learning activity should clearly exemplify individual accountability and positive interdependence etc.)

Evidence of professional habits of thinking and communication. Do you demonstrate the ability to reflect on your own practice? Does your personal statement demonstrate the capacity to support your ideas (or is it full of generalities like, "In my classroom, I will respect children," without providing examples of how you will show respect)?

Technical accuracy. Do you know the difference between it's and its? Are your artifacts well-written and free of mistakes or would you be embarrassed to have parents (and administrators) read them?

ATTENDANCE

If your cooperating teacher or the principal asks you to participate in a school event on a Thursday you should check with me about missing class. Beyond that, you are allowed one absence, which we will assume are for good reasons. Beyond that, your final grade will be reduced as indicated: 2 absences--reduction of 1/2 grade; 3 absences--reduction of full grade; 4 absences--failing grade in course.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any violation of academic honesty is a serious offense and is therefore subject to an appropriate penalty. Refer to <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml> for a full explanation of policies.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

September 5

TOPIC: Introductions; review of syllabus; receive written words of wisdom from last year's interns; address concerns.

Assignment:

Begin Journaling (if your school is not yet in-session, write about your experiences leading up to the first day of school).

Bring in a written artifact that demonstrates your effort (or your cooperating teacher's effort) to involve and communicate with families and/or the community (e.g., a welcoming letter, newsletter, interactive homework assignment, "happy-gram," etc.)

September 12

TOPIC: Creating a Culture for Learning—Building relationships and creating a learning community in the classroom. (Professional Teaching Standards 8,iii; 9,I,1; 9,ii,1). Working with families, caregivers, and the community. Developing curriculum that is responsive to students and families; (Professional Teaching Standards 8,iii; 9,I, 1; 9,ii, 1)

Assignment:

Choose a student in your class you are concerned about/intrigued by. Over the next few weeks collect documentation on him/her including anecdotal notes, student work (including writing samples, test, homework, independent work), conversations about the child with other adults. At least once during the three weeks, observe him/her outside of your classroom (i.e. playground, 'special').

September 19

TOPIC: Cooperative Learning (Standards 3,iii, 1; 4,I,4)

Assignment:

Read *Tomlinson, Callahan, & Tomchin* "Becoming architects of communities of learning"

Bring in a lesson, activity, or game that you believe uses cooperative learning.

September 26

TOPIC: Group work/ cooperative learning

Begin Student Documentation Shares

Assignment:

Read *Brady* "Section 505: Student Eligibility", *Murawski & Hughes* "Response to Intervention"

October 3

TOPIC: Special Education: Identifying when a child may need special services, strategies for assessing, and referring students. (Professional Teaching Standards 3iii, 4; 7i, 1-2 ii, iii, 1-4)

Student Documentation Shares

Assignment:

Read *Pierce & Adams* "Tiered Lessons"

October 10 **Post Journal Entries in Dropbox**

TOPIC: Differentiating instruction by content, instruction, and product.

Student Documentation Shares continue

October 17

TOPIC: Instructional strategies review

Student Documentation Shares

October 24

Career Services workshop TBD

TOPIC: Resume Writing

Student Documentation Shares conclude

Lesson Presentation begins

October 31

TOPIC: Best Practices

Lesson Presentation

November 7

Class Meets Online

TOPIC: Resume swap & feedback

November 14

Career Services workshop TBD

TOPIC: Mock interviews

Lesson Presentation

November 21 **Post Journal Entries #2**

TOPIC: Best Practices

Lesson Presentation

November 26 [Tuesday before Thanksgiving]

TOPIC:

Lesson Presentation

December 5

TOPIC: First year teachers share all--how they got their jobs, what the first year is like, etc.

Lesson Presentation concludes

December 12

TOPIC: Reflections on the internship; sharing portfolios; writing words of wisdom for next year's interns; end of semester celebration (Standards 10.ii,2)