

**The Teaching Professional**

**Education 15:255:539**

Spring 2015

Section 7 (Hybrid)

Wednesdays 10:55AM – 1:55AM in GSE Room 030

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**Course Description:**

This course is intended to help you to understand and apply key concepts associated with the transition from education novice to education professional. The course is broken into two parts.

**PART ONE** considers what specific ideas and methods of teacher reflection might help us become better teachers. We will investigate how professional knowledge relates to teachers' identities and teaching as transformative experience. We will focus on the nature of teaching through the domains as defined by Danielson: (1) Planning And Preparation (2) The Classroom Environment (3) Instruction (4) Professional Responsibilities. Each of these domains will be analyzed based on levels of professional performance, specifically: Unsatisfactory, Basic, Proficient and Distinguished.

**PART TWO** explores the question: "What are the legal rights and responsibilities of educational professionals?" In Part Two, we will explore how people think about teaching and what demographics tell us about who teachers are. We will examine problems of professional practice in the context of finance and governance, of work-life balance, of teacher identity, of schools as workplaces, of legal regulations concerning teachers' and students' rights and responsibilities.

For this course you will be required to write a **professional development plan** and a **teaching philosophy paper** that will guide your continued development as a teacher and that incorporate key themes from this course and, more broadly, from your entire program. Both of these are portfolio artifacts.

**Course Texts:**

**PART ONE:** Enhancing Professional Practice: A Framework for Teaching 2nd Edition Charlotte Danielson  
Also: Specific Readings will be made available on Sakai as the semester develops.

Websites: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/AchieveNJ/>  
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/profdev/profstand/standards.pdf>

**PART TWO:** Schimmel, Fischer and Stellman, (2008). *School Law: What Every Educator Should Know*. Boston: Pearson. Additional artifacts on Sakai.

## Course Requirements

### **PART ONE (50 points):**

In this section of the course we will consider what specific ideas and methods of teacher reflection might help us become better teachers. We will investigate how professional knowledge relates to teachers' identities and teaching as transformative experience. We will focus on the nature of teaching through the domains as defined by Danielson: (1) Planning and Preparation (2) The Classroom Environment (3) Instruction (4) Professional Responsibilities. Each of these domains will be analyzed based on levels of professional performance, specifically: Unsatisfactory, Basic, Proficient and Distinguished.

We will also review and utilize the NJ Professional Development Standards for Teachers.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/profdev/profstand/standards.pdf>

There are 10 professional development standards listed in this document. You may utilize any of the information provided in Danielson and the NJ Professional Development Standards to develop your response paper and your final Professional Development Plan.

Be prepared to focus on your grade-level and subject matter areas of certification in all areas of analysis. Each week we will engage in classroom activities and discussions of readings focusing on developing an understanding of teaching and the skills and practices that support distinguished teaching. Classroom activities and discussions will be set up as collaborative projects or experiments in trying to improve our understanding of what it means to be a teacher, what great teaching looks like, what reflective professional development is, and the challenges that lead to outstanding student outcomes and performance in the classroom.

Please Note: (It is imperative that you obtain copies of all of your observations) In preparation for week three prepare a three-page written response discussing your experience as a teacher or student teacher. Pay particular attention to the comments made by your mentors and cooperating teachers in your observations and reflect upon the nature of the comments. (Specifically, Areas Needing Improvement.) In the response define two domains (Danielson or the NJ Standards as noted above) that relate to these comments and how these areas can lead you to improve your craft. This paper will be collected and graded by the instructor after it is presented to the class as a whole and will provide the basis for the final Professional Development Plan required for completion of your portfolio and graduation. In the final paper due at the end of the semester identify the areas needing improvement and what specifically you will do to develop these areas including: Professional Development Training Sessions, Web Resources, Research, etc.

**Attendance/Class Presentations and Collaboration: 10%**

**Analytical Paper Due Week Three: 15%**

**Professional Development Plan: 25%**

### **PART TWO (50 points)**

**PLEASE NOTE: All papers for PART 2 should be submitted to the Assignments Tab on SAKAI by 11:59pm on their due date. Late paper policy: 1 point will be deducted from your paper for each day that it is late.** Papers should be double spaced, 12 pt. font in a Word document format. They will be graded using 'Track Changes' which doesn't work on pdfs, to my knowledge. Please use APA citations where appropriate.

**Sakai Class Discussions (12 points):** Each of you will be responsible for posting and/or responding to at least one newspaper article, scholarly journal article, scholarly blog link, etc., each week (except for Week One). What this means is that each week, for weeks 2-7, you must contribute to the class discussion. Over those 6 weeks you are required to post 3 articles and respond to 3 articles, but you can certainly do more than this. (Example: Week 2: Post article, Week 3: Respond to article, Week 4: Post Article, etc.) The post should relate to that week's readings and must post by **11:59pm on the Tuesday** of the week our class will cover that topic. Discussions of the articles may continue as long as you wish but you will only receive credit for the discussion up until **11:59pm on Saturday** of that week. When you post the article/link please write a brief paragraph explaining how it is relevant to that week's readings. Please place the links/articles and discussions in the 'Class Discussion' section of Sakai in the Discussion and Private Messages Tab and label your post with the week it relates to like: "Article for Week 2". You will not get credit for posting an article that has already been posted. You are expected to read the articles and responses that your classmates post each week.

**Weekly VoiceThread Prompt (14 points):** Discussion of readings is essential to the course objectives. Your input will help make this experience more meaningful for you and your classmates. As a full-fledged class participant, you are expected to respond to the weekly prompt that I have created in VoiceThread on Sakai that will highlight some of the issues from the readings for that week. You can use video, PowerPoint, audio or text to respond. Please feel free to experiment with the technology and be creative. Part of the reason I am using VoiceThread is so that you can see how it, or similar programs, might be used in your future classrooms. This assignment is due each week by **11:59pm on Sunday**.

**Weekly Reflective Journal (6 points):** You will be responsible for submitting weekly reflective journal papers that should address any issue(s) in the assigned readings, the debates and/or the discussion board that came up that week or any related issue(s) that may have occurred in your teaching placements. This is where you can begin to synthesize what you are learning in this class with your prior knowledge and beliefs. These papers should be no more than a page and should be uploaded to the Assignments Tab on Sakai by **Sunday at 11:59** for Weeks 2-7.

**Weekly Law/Policy Debate (12 points- 5 points for debate presentation & 2 points for responses to presentations/ 5 points for comments/questions to Groups ):** You will need to complete one group project, which will be a VoiceThread debate on a topic related to educational law/policy. You will get to choose your group and the week/topic that you want to present on. Signups are on Sakai (one of the Tabs on the left side of the screen), please sign up by **March 20, 2015**, or I will assign you to a group. Format of the debate: each group should take about 15-20 minutes to discuss the reasons that have been given in support of their side of the issue. You do not have to agree with the side that you are presenting, and you should refrain from using first person dialog in this part of the debate. For example, state: "Some teachers feel that..." or "Under the law a teacher is required to..." not "I think that..." Your presentations will be done on VoiceThread, in Sakai. You should use audio, video and/or slides to go along with your presentation, be creative and engaging. This should post by **11:59pm on Wednesday** of the week that you have signed up for. For the remainder of the week your classmates will post comments and questions (using audio/video/text) that the groups will be responsible for addressing (You do not need to respond as a group, individual group members can respond). At this point you can also give your own thoughts on the topic/side that you have debated. Classmate comments and/or questions should post by **Sunday at noon**, Group Responses to comments and questions should be timely, but should post no later than **Sunday at 11:59pm**.

\*Remember that professionals should be respectful of each other's thoughts and opinions, unprofessional behavior will result in a loss of points. This does not mean that you have to agree with

everything that your classmates say, but you should find a way to disagree with them in a constructive way that encourages further discussion. This is true for all areas of this course.

**Personal Teaching Philosophy Paper (6 points):** What is your personal teaching philosophy? Include what you believe the purpose of education is and how you plan to use your teaching philosophy to inform your educational pedagogy in the classroom or as a researcher (or both). This paper must be properly cited using the APA format and be 4-6 pages in length. Additional instructions and the rubric can be found on Sakai. **Due 5/3, please upload the Personal Teaching Philosophy Paper to the Assignments Tab on Sakai**

Additionally, the Teaching Philosophy Paper must post to your **teacher education portfolio** on Sakai by **5/4** at midnight. Failure to post the paper to Sakai by the deadline will result in your final grade losing one point for each day that it is late.

### **RULES FOR BOTH SECTIONS OF THE COURSE**

**Academic Integrity:** We expect that you will comply with standards of academic integrity (that is, you will not even think about cheating) in this course. If you need assistance in understanding an assignment or course content, please seek assistance from other appropriate resources or your Professor. Assignments, however, should be your own work, except in cases where we have required a group product. The consequence for violating policies of academic integrity and other elements of the student code of conduct are serious and can have a tremendous negative impact on your academic progress and future career. You should not turn in the same work in two separate classes without the specific written approval of the faculty members involved. Leaving work until the last minute can increase the temptation to plagiarize work from journals or “borrow” friends’ work. You can avoid problems by getting your work done early. Exams are also your own work. Please familiarize yourself with the university policy on academic integrity ([http://www.rcstudentservice.rutgers.edu/academic\\_integrity.html](http://www.rcstudentservice.rutgers.edu/academic_integrity.html)).

### **NJ Professional Standards for Teachers**

#### **10. Standard Ten: Professional Development.**

Teachers shall participate as active, responsible members of the professional community, engaging in a wide range of reflective practices, pursuing opportunities to grow professionally and establishing collegial relationships to enhance the teaching and learning process.

- i. Teachers know and understand how education research and other methods of inquiry can be used as a means for continuous learning, self-assessment and development.*
- ii. Teachers value and are committed to:*
  - (1) Refining practices that address the needs of all students and the school community;
  - (2) Professional reflection, assessment and learning as an ongoing process; and
  - (3) Collaboration with colleagues to give and receive help.
- iii. Teachers engage in activities to:*
  - (1) Use reflective practice and the Professional Development Standards to set goals for their professional development plans;
  - (2) Learn through professional education organizations; and
  - (3) Make the entire school a productive learning climate through participation in collegial activities.

## **11. Standard Eleven: Professional Responsibility.**

Teachers shall act in accordance with legal and ethical responsibilities and shall use integrity and fairness to promote the success of all students.

*i. Teachers know and understand:*

- (1) Their professional responsibilities as reflected in constitutional provisions, statutes, regulations, policies, and collective negotiations agreements; and
- (2) Strategies to foster professional and productive relationships with students and colleagues.

*ii. Teachers value and are committed to:*

- (1) Recognizing that an educator's actions reflect on the status and substance of the profession;
- (2) Upholding the highest standards of professional competence both as a practitioner in the classroom as well as an employee vested with the public trust;
- (3) Recognizing, respecting and upholding the dignity and worth of students as individual human beings, and therefore dealing with them justly and considerately; and
- (4) Recognizing their obligation to the profession of teaching and not engaging in any conduct contrary to sound professional practice and/or applicable statutes, regulations and policy.

*iii. Teachers engage in activities to:*

- (1) Promote aspects of students' well-being by exercising the highest level of professional judgment, and working cooperatively and productively with colleagues and parents to provide a safe, healthy, and emotionally protective learning environment;
- (2) Maintain the confidentiality of information concerning students obtained in the proper course of the educational process and dispense such information only when prescribed or directed by federal and/or state statutes or accepted professional practice;
- (3) Maintain professional relationships with students and colleagues;
- (4) Provide access to various points of view without deliberate distortion of subject matter; and
- (5) Foster and maintain a school environment which protects students from sexually, physically, verbally, or emotionally harassing behavior by recognizing, understanding, and conducting themselves in a sound and professionally responsible manner.

### **Office of Disability Services:**

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentations: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Anyone with a learning difference needing accommodations of any kind should contact us as soon as possible.

**Grade distribution**

<b>A</b>	<b>92 – 100 points</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>76 – 81 points</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>86 - 91 points</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>70 – 75 points</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>82 – 85 points</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>below 70 points</b>

***Weekly Readings*****PART ONE:****Week One:**

Introduction  
Ice Breaking Activity  
Review of Class Requirements  
Group Assignments  
The Nature of Educational Bureaucracy  
Read Chapters 1-2-3 of Danielson

**Week Two:**

- Frameworks for Teacher Excellence
- Four Domains of Teaching Responsibility
- Levels of Classroom Performance

Enhancing Professional Practice: A Framework for Teaching 2nd Edition Charlotte Danielson  
Review the Achieve NJ Website at: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/AchieveNJ/>  
The Corrective Action Plan: See Sakai documents under Week Two and the review the Achieve NJ Website for teachers: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/AchieveNJ/teacher/>

**Week Three:**

- Student individual class presentations as noted above.
- Four page paper due.

**Week Four:**

Students Will Share Evaluations of Their Teaching in Small Groups (It is important that students collect and prepare to share with their colleagues the formal evaluations of their teaching/student teaching with their classmates who are seeking certification in similar content and grade level.)  
See the Lesson Reflection Form on Sakai Under Week 4.

**Week Five:**

Developing an Individual Professional Development Plan. Reviewing the specific requirements of Rutgers University and meeting those requirements.  
Read: Danielson Chapter 6.  
Read: What Works In Classroom Instruction: The PDF is on the Sakai site. This document is to be used as a resource in the development of your Professional Development Plan.  
Robert J. Marzano  
Barbara B. Gaddy  
Ceri Dean

**Week Six:**

Students will work on their individual Professional Development Plan that will be submitted for final approval.  
Prepare to work in class with the assistance of the instructor and colleagues as needed.

**Week Seven:**

Submitting the final Professional Development Plan and comments/questions on the reflective process of professional development.

**PART TWO:** Professional conduct and decision making. How should an educational professional act in and outside of school? What are the legal and policy factors that a teacher should consider when making decisions?

**Week One:** Introduction to the course. Introduction to teaching as an ideal. What does it mean to be a teacher? How do teachers conceive of their roles? How does society conceive of teachers? What do demographic data tell us about who teachers are, and how does this square with popular conceptions?

- Go over syllabus
- Practice using online classroom features
- Sakai readings/activities

**Week Two:** Context. How do governance and finance affect teachers' work? What are the pros and cons of high-stakes testing for teachers and students?

- Schimmel, Fischer and Stellman, (2008). Chapters 10 & 11 (130-150); Appendix A-B (151-154).

**Week Three:** Teaching as a job. How do teacher contracts, tenure, and collective bargaining shape the work that teachers do? What is due process? How does teaching compare to other professions in terms of compensation and working conditions? What is reasonable to expect in a contract? What do unions do?

- Schimmel, Fischer and Stellman, (2008). Chapters 1 and 2 (1-31)
- Please review the teacher contract on Sakai

**Week Four:** What are important legal rights and responsibilities for teachers? What are common misconceptions of these rights and responsibilities?

- Schimmel, Fischer and Stellman, (2008). Chapters 3 and 4 (32-69).

**Week Five:** What are important legal rights for students? (Freedom from discrimination, Freedom of speech and expression, Search and Seizure, School records, Discipline.)

- Schimmel, Fischer and Stellman, (2008). Chapters 5, 6 and 8 (70-92 & 102-120).

**Week Six:** Religion and Public Education--considerations for teachers, students, and communities. How should public school teachers make decisions regarding religion in their classroom and school?

- Schimmel, Fischer and Stellman, (2008). Chapter 7 (93-101).

**Week Seven:** Teachers lives outside the school. How does being a teacher affect one's personal life? How should it?

- Sakai: Teachers Struggle to Separate Private and Professional Lives Online (1-10)
- Schimmel, Fischer and Stellman, (2008). Chapter 9 (121-129)

***Personal Teaching Philosophy Paper:*** What is your personal teaching philosophy? Include what you believe the purpose of education is and how you plan to use your teaching philosophy to inform your educational pedagogy in the classroom or as a researcher (or both). This paper must be properly cited using the APA format and be 4-6 pages in length. Additional instructions and the rubric can be found on Sakai. **Due 5/3, please upload the Personal Teaching Philosophy Paper to the Assignments Tab on Sakai.**

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### Scoring Rubrics

	<b>GSE Expectation to be Assessed in the Professional Development Plan</b>	<b>0 Missing from Plan</b>	<b>1 Does Not Meet Expectations for a Professional</b>	<b>2 Meets Expectations for a Professional</b>	<b>3 Exceeds Expectations for a Professional</b>	<b>N/A The criterion was not relevant to this particular plan Explain Why</b>
<b>1</b>	The goals identified are appropriate		The goals identified were not clearly linked to the self-evaluation and/or were unconnected to state standards	The goals identified were clearly linked to the self-evaluation and were connected to state standards	The goals identified were clearly linked to the self-evaluation, were connected to state standards, and specific standards were identified	
<b>2</b>	The activities selected as professional development were appropriate		The activities selected were not clearly linked to the goals	Completion of the identified activities would result in the accomplishment of the goals	Completion of the identified activities would result in the accomplishment of the goals and would clearly enhance the candidate's teaching	
<b>3</b>	The resources identified were appropriate for the selected activities		The resources identified were incomplete	The resources identified were professional and appropriate to the selected tasks	The resources identified were professional, appropriate to the selected tasks, and innovative	
<b>4</b>	Writing is clear, and well edited`		The writing contains spelling and/or grammatical errors or is ill-structured.	Writing is clear, well-edited,	The writing is clear and well-edited; statements are supported	

<b>GSE Expectation to be Assessed in the Teaching Philosophy Paper</b>	<b>0 - Missing from Plan</b>	<b>1 - Does Not Meet Expectations for a Professional</b>	<b>2 - Meets Expectations for a Professional</b>	<b>3 - Exceeds Expectations for a Professional</b>
<b>Writing is clear and well edited</b>	Missing	The writing contains spelling and/or grammatical errors or is ill-structured	Writing is clear and well-edited	The writing is clear, statements are supported, and is well-edited
<b>Identifies an age group and discusses the purposes of schooling for that age group</b>	Missing	Is vague about the age group targeted, discusses purposes of schooling in generalities or fails to support assertions about purposes of schooling	Identifies an age group and discusses the purposes of schooling for that age group	Clearly identifies an age group, discusses the purposes of schooling and provides specific examples of why these purposes are important
<b>Identifies central questions or dilemmas in the discipline (for elementary, identifies key dilemmas in education)</b>	Missing	Vaguely describes a key issue/question but provides no support for why the issue is important	Identifies central questions or dilemmas in the discipline (for elementary, identifies key dilemmas in education) but does not provide support for assertions of key issues. Gives specific examples from teaching	Identifies central questions or dilemmas in the discipline (for elementary, identifies key dilemmas in education) and provides support for assertions of key issues. Gives specific examples from teaching
<b>Describes how students learn</b>	Missing	Describes how students learn but do not present a comprehensive view of learning from a coherent standpoint	Describes how students learn but do and presents a comprehensive view of learning from a coherent standpoint	Describes how students learn but do and presents a comprehensive view of learning from a coherent standpoint. Provides specific examples from teaching
<b>Describes how she/he plans to teach (including pedagogy, use of technology, and assessment)</b>	Missing	Describes how he/she plans to teach but does not provide much detail nor does he/she address issues of the use of technology or assessment	Describes how he/she plans to teach (including pedagogy, use of technology, and assessment)	Describes how he/she plans to teach (including pedagogy, use of technology, and assessment). Provides specific examples from teaching
<b>Describes why and how he/she will respond to individual differences in ability, interest, and backgrounds of students</b>	Missing	Makes general statements about responding to individual differences but does not explain WHY he/she will do so	Describes why and how he/she will respond to individual differences in ability, interest, and backgrounds of students	Describes why and how he/she will respond to individual differences in ability, interest, and backgrounds of students. Gives specific examples based on teaching