

Syllabus – Curriculum Development in the Middle and Junior High School

15:310:510:90:10674

On-line Course

Spring 2015

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Texts

Curriculum Leadership *Strategies For Development and Implementation*, Third Edition, by Allan A. Glatthorn, Floyd Boschee, Bruce M. Whitehead, and Bonnie F. Boschee. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications, 2012.

Common Core Meets Education Reform: What It All Means For Politics, Policy, and the Future of Schooling by Fredrick M. Hess and Michael Q. Shane, Teacher College Press, 2014.

Course Competencies

New Jersey has transitioned to the Common Core State Standards. The Common Core Standards will be addressed in this course along with the following Administrative Course Standards:

1. General Leadership:

- New Jersey Administrative Code Requirement 6A: 9-12.5 (a)
2: Leading a common vision of learning in the school community (elements of developing and implementing shared vision);(i) Leading with integrity and fairness;(v)

2. Instructional Leadership:

- New Jersey Administrative Code Requirement 6A: 9-12.5 (a)
2:Leading a common vision of learning in the school community (instructional elements);(i) Leading a climate and culture conducive to

student learning and staff professional growth;(ii)

3. Context/Community:

- New Jersey Administrative Code Requirement 6A: 9-12.5 (a) 2:Leading the mobilization of resources, response to diverse needs, and collaboration with families and communities;(iv) Leading with a perspective of the larger political, social, economic and legal context;(vi)

Requirements

- 1. Critical reading of texts and selected references/reports**
- 2. Participation in Threaded Discussions/Debate**
- 3. On-line Participation/Independent Research**
- 4. Assigned Papers/Challenge Questions/Common Core Book Critique**
- 5. Written Critique of selected Videos/National Reports**
- 6. Reflective Journal entries**
- 7. Redesign a portion of a Middle School Curriculum based on information gleaned from taking this course.**

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 Middle School curriculum development. Your objective is to post well thought-out comments while remaining focused on the assigned discussion topic.

Threaded Debate Discussion

Threaded Debate will allow you the opportunity to take a stand on an issue discussed in the course. The instructor will assign positions and topic. You will need to research and support the position you are assigned.

Written Reports/Papers/Book Critique

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.

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. Running reflections on the readings, discussions, and the direction of the profession would be appropriate entries for the reflective journal.

Videos, National Reports, and Curriculum Challenge Critiques

Critiques of assigned Videos and/or National Reports, and Middle School Curriculum Challenge Questions should be concise, well thought-out, reflective of your position on the issues as addressed and supported by research.

Did You Know Thread

You should check this post often and respond to items that pique your interest. You may also post an issue important to you that might generate a response from classmates. Participation in this Thread is not required but highly recommended.

Comprehensive Curriculum

This is the culminating activity for the course. By applying the knowledge gleaned throughout the semester, you will have an opportunity to redesign a portion of a middle school curriculum of your choosing.

Course Outline

Unit 1: January 20 to February 24

Read Part I in Glatthorn

Read The Story of the Eight Year Study

Consider the historical impact of assigned national reports/readings

First Threaded Discussion (Topic: The Eight Year Study)

First Critical Reaction Paper – Based on Part I in Glatthorn

Reflective Journal Entries (2)

Video – *Creating, Leading and Sustaining An Innovative Educational System*
Middle School Challenge Question
Begin Reading Common Core Meets Education Reform, for an assignment that comes due in Unit 3.

Unit 2: February 25 to April 1

Read Parts II and III in Glatthorn
Consider the historical impact of assigned national reports/readings
Second Threaded Discussion (Topic: The Impact of Technology on the Middle School Curriculum)
Second Critical Reaction Paper – Based on Parts II and III in Glatthorn
Reflective Journal Entries (2)
Video – *Connecting Successful Practices to Next Practices and the Role of Empowerment*
Middle School Challenge Question
Continue Reading Common Core Meets Education Reform

Unit 3: April 2 – May 13

Read Part IV in Glatthorn
Design a portion of a comprehensive curriculum (with reference to the common core standards) for an actual Middle School course of your choice
Reflective Journal Entries (2)
Video – *Creating a Culture of High Expectations*
Middle School Challenge Question
Threaded Debate Discussion – Topic to be assigned
Book Critique: Common Core Meets Education Reform

Grading Policy

15% Threaded Discussions/Threaded Debate
25% Critical Reaction papers /Challenge Questions
15% Comprehensive Curriculum Construction
15% Video Reaction papers
15% Reflective Journal Entries
15% Common Core Meets Education Reform Critique

Students With Disabilities

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<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>.

If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus disability service 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 course as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS site at:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.