

**MORAVIAN COLLEGE**  
**Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018**

***Elementary Curriculum and Instruction***  
**Education 374, Spring 2008**

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*If ever there was a cause, if ever there can be a cause worthy to be upheld be all of the toil and sacrifice that the human hand or heart can endure, it is the cause of education.*

**Horace Mann**

*Teachers should be given to understand that they not only are permitted to act on their own initiative, but that they are expected to do so, and that their ability to take hold of a situation for themselves would be a more important factor in judging them than their following any particular set method or scheme.*

**John Dewey**

*As a general rule, teachers teach more by what they are than by what they say.*

**Anonymous**

*Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell 'em, 'Certainly I can!' Then get busy and find out how to do it.*

**Theodore Roosevelt**

*His priority did not seem to be to teach them what he knew, but rather to impress upon them that nothing, not even... knowledge, was foolproof.*

**J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix***

*Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.*

**Abigail Adams**

As a candidate for teacher certification, you are about to begin the most critical stage in your professional preparation. During the next semester, you are going to demonstrate to yourself, your students, your cooperating teachers, and to your College supervisor(s) that you are an effective teacher and that you possess the desire for continued professional growth. In order to do this, you will need to draw upon your acquired and soon to be gained knowledge of educational theory and practice as well as your own personal well of talents, abilities, and energies.

***Elementary Curriculum, and Instruction*** is designed to support and extend your personal efforts during the semester of Student Teaching. You and your student teaching colleagues will meet weekly to discuss the issues related to the challenges of teaching and the process of certification and securing a teaching position. Your involved presence at each seminar is essential for the successful exchange of ideas, information, and coping strategies.

The goal of this course is simply to develop the understanding, skills, and attitudes of the professional teacher - the teacher who acts with reflective consideration of principles, practices, and policies. You will demonstrate evidence of your professional knowledge and practice in the following areas:

- Planning and Preparation
- Classroom Environment
- Instructional Strategies
- Professionalism.

List three goals of your own for this semester:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### **REQUIRED TEXT:**

The required text for this course is: Kronowitz, Ellen L., *The Teacher's Guide to Success*. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc., 2008.

In addition you should read professional journals and other related materials to promote your professional development. Administrators will often ask during an interview what you have read recently in professional journals. Appropriate educational journals like *Teaching Children Mathematics* or *The Reading Teacher* may be found in the library. In addition you may consider reading texts helpful for beginning teachers like:

- *Enhancing Professional Practice* by Charlotte Danielson
- *The First Days of School* by Harry and Rosemary Wong.
- *First-Year Teacher's Survival Kit* by Julia Thompson
- *A First-year Teacher's Guidebook* by Bonnie Williamson
- *Reluctant Disciplinarian* by Gary Rubinstein
- *Your First Year as an Elementary School Teacher* by Lynne Rominger, Karen Heisinger, & Natalie Elkin.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Your grade for *Elementary Curriculum and Instruction* will be based on the following:

Weekly Journal	20% (10% each experience)
Weekly Lesson Plans	20% (10% each experience)
PowerPoint Presentation	15%
Professional Development Attendance & Report	10%
Reflective Essay	10%
Final Portfolio	25%

**Professional Development** - It is expected that you will continue reading professional journals as part of your plan for professional development. You should feel free to bring readings on current topics to seminar for discussion. You are required to attend all professional meetings associated with your student teaching assignment. That includes all (but not limited to) faculty meetings, in-service days, parent conferences, and child study team meetings. There will also be other professional development opportunities such as workshops presented by the Colonial Association of Reading Educators. You need to submit a 2-3 page reflection on one of these activities.

Your paper is due April 21. You must also share your experience with your colleagues during seminar. You may not use the LVPBS Reading Rainbow experience, the Job Fair, or any required faculty related meetings you attend as your professional development. There will be opportunities on campus that you may attend. Read your emails about local events.

**Weekly Journal** - For the first three weeks of each experience you will submit a journal entry to your supervisor. The mechanics and content requirements of the assignment as well as the grading procedures are outlined on the journal rubric attached to your syllabus. The topics and dates are as follows:

- ❑ **Jan 21** - *First Impressions* - getting started, organization techniques, routines, etc.
- ❑ **Jan 28** - *Classroom Management* – this is more than discipline
- ❑ **Feb 4** - *Diverse Learners* - documentation of IEPs, section 504, ELL, and any other special needs
- ❑ **March 17** - **pick one:**
  - (a) incorporating the theory of multiple intelligence to differentiate instruction or
  - (b) using the arts as a teaching tool
- ❑ **March 31** - **pick one:**
  - (a) materials and strategies to challenge and encourage the above average and gifted students in the classroom or
  - (b) shadow a student with special needs who has an IEP or who has been recommended for IST - write about his difficulties in class, his needs, what is being done for him and what you think could possibly help this student; interview the learning support teacher or the aide.
- ❑ **April 7** - comparison between the two experiences - The school wide or classroom management plan, the math and reading program, the socio economic background of the students, etc. Don't judge which is better, just compare.

Your journal will include your observations, your research on the topic, your connections to what you learned in your Moravian classes, and your reflective remarks. Although you have a specific topic on Diverse Learners, you should pay attention to meeting the needs of the diverse learners in your classroom in all of your journal entries.

For example:

- Do you have section 504 plans and/or IEPs? What accommodations/specially designed instruction is outlined in these documents?
- How do they impact your teaching?
- How successful in meeting the students' needs are the accommodations/specially designed instruction? How would you change them?
- What role does the special education teacher play in supporting/collaborating with the general education teacher/you?
- How are you meeting the needs of ESOL students?
- What role does the ESOL teacher play in supporting/collaborating with the gen. ed. teacher/you?
- What Universal Design instruction are you using?

Your journal is not a place to complain about your experience. If you have serious concerns, speak directly to your College supervisor. Do not work on your journal during your time in class with your students. You need to be thoroughly engaged with your students even if your cooperating teacher is teaching.

**Weekly Lesson Plans** - Every week prior to seminar you will submit your written lesson plans from the previous week to your College supervisor. Each College supervisor has a bin in the Education Department where you should place your plans unless directed to do so otherwise by your supervisor. You must follow the lesson plan format included in the Student Teaching Handbook unless you have made other arrangements with your supervisor. Your plans must be done via word processing and should include an indication that your cooperating teacher previewed them. Your lessons should be complete and detailed. The Evaluation section is crucial and will be viewed as such by your supervisor. Take extra time here for reflection and write about it. The Evaluation section of each lesson plan should be about one page in length. When you have converted to block plans, you will continue to reflect on your teaching. Written reflections should be included with your block plans. You will receive a letter grade for

your written plans - both long and block form. The lesson plan rubric is included at the end of this syllabus. The lesson plan format is included in the student teaching handbook.

**PowerPoint Presentation** - In order to begin the process of putting together your final portfolio and turning it into a PowerPoint presentation, you are required to make a PowerPoint presentation of your first student teaching experience. Your presentation must include at least 8 slides and should highlight creative lessons and activities that your students engaged in during your first student teaching experience. Several slides may be devoted to you as a young professional and may depict other aspects of you that would be of interest to a hiring administrator. This project will be graded. It is **due by March 10**. Bring your disc, thumb drive, etc. to seminar. You will each have 5 minutes to share your PowerPoint presentation to the whole group.

**Reflective Essay** - You will write a final reflective essay at the end of the semester. This is a look back at your experience at Moravian College and a look into your future as a teacher. Write about how you have grown and how you anticipate continuing your growth. Your paper must be done via word processing and should be 3 to 5 pages in length. You will receive a letter grade - spelling, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and clarity of thought count! **Due by 4:00 PM on May 5.**

**Final Portfolio** - This is your culminating project. It will reflect the best part of you thus far in your preservice teaching career. You will use this portfolio in your job search. Of course, this is not a final version. You will always be up-dating your portfolio. Your portfolio should include the following:

- Table of Contents
- Resume
- Statement of philosophy of classroom management
- Statement of philosophy of instruction
- Technology Skills:
  - List of technology skills – be extensive – include hardware and software
  - Samples of items designed on the computer
  - Statement of how you will integrate technology into the curriculum
- Lesson plans (5 or 6 from various disciplines and grade levels) that demonstrate any (not all) of the following:
  - A variety of instructional strategies
  - Performance assessment
  - Accommodation of individual differences & learning styles
  - Collaborative learning strategies
- Each lesson plan should include:
  - A rationale for inclusion in your portfolio
  - The complete long or block plan including your self-evaluation of the lesson
  - Evidence of student outcomes from the lesson
    - Samples of student work
    - Samples of assessment tools
    - Photos that show outcomes
  - Each lesson plan should be tabbed separately for ease of use
- Evidence of your professional development – this can be in written form as well inclusion of photos. Document things you have done professionally outside the classroom to improve your professional skills. You should also include examples of professional reading you have done and do on a regular basis.

You may also create sections to be added later for additional categories such as:

- Transcripts
- Certification documents
- Letters of reference
- Directing extracurricular activities
- Evidence of community involvement
- Three-year professional development plan

Your portfolio needs to look very professional. You need to showcase your talents and your organizational skills. Photos with computerized (nothing hand written) captions are eye catching. Remember, "A picture is worth 1000 words." A picture will often give you an excuse to talk about something neat you did in class with your students. This is a graded project. You will be evaluated using the rubric on the following page. Your portfolio is **due by 4:00 PM May 5. You may pick up your portfolio on May 8 between 9:00 AM and noon.**

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

It is expected that you will attend and participate in all seminars. Those who choose to cut seminar or do not participate in a professional manner, will have their final grades lowered accordingly. Each unexcused absence will lower your final grade by 5%.

**EXPECTED WORK LOAD:**

You should expect to work between 4 and 6 hours per week preparing for this class. This includes writing your journal, preparing your PowerPoint presentation, reading professional journals and books, attending professional meetings, writing your final reflective essay, and working on your portfolio. The time you spend on preparing lesson plans is in addition to these expected hours.

**SPECIAL NEEDS:**

Any student who wishes to disclose a disability and request accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for this course first **MUST** meet with either Mrs. Laurie Roth in the Office of Learning Services (for learning disabilities and/or ADD/ADHD) or Dr. Ronald Kline in the Counseling Center (for all other disabilities).

**ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

The Moravian College policy on academic honesty will be followed. A copy of the policy is included on the Blackboard site and in the Student Handbook. A copy of the College guidelines concerning plagiarism is also included on the Blackboard site.

**BLACKBOARD:**

We will not be using Blackboard for this class this semester.

**CELL PHONES:**

Make sure all cell phones, pagers, etc. are turned off prior to the beginning of class. If there is an emergency and you need to be available, make arrangements with me before class begins. If your cell phone does go off, I will answer it for you and you will have to bring in a snack for everyone for the next class.

This syllabus is subject to change.  
**Seminar Schedule (subject to change)**

**December 11 • Orientation for Student Teaching • PPHAC 302 • 4:00-6:00 PM**  
**January 14 • Continue Orientation • Snyder Room in the HUB • 9:00 AM - 1 PM**

**Student Teaching I – January 15 through February 29**

**Weekly Seminars are from 4:00 to 6:00 PM in PPHAC 302. Be on time!**

January 21	No Seminar – MLK Holiday
January 28	General Discussion - Classroom Management – read unit 4
February 4	Special Needs & Accommodations with Mrs. Modjadidi – read unit 6
February 11	Resume writing & graduate school discussion with Christine Rander
February 18	Certification application and placement procedures with Mrs. Kubera
February 25	Closure on first experience – PDE 430 forms

**Spring Break – March 1 through March 9**

**Student Teaching II – March 10 through May 2**

**Weekly Seminars are from 4:00 to 6:00 PM in PPHAC 302. Be on time!**

March 10	PowerPoint Presentations; Meet with new Supervisors
March 17	Lehigh Valley PBS-TV studio – Reading Rainbow contest evaluation (This is from 4:00 to 7:00 – dinner will be provided.)
March 24	No seminar – Easter Monday
March 31	General Discussion – prepare for Job Fair
April 1	Job Fair (This is all day at Moravian. You are excused from student teaching.)
April 7	General discussion – reflections on job fair
April 14	Discussion with First Year Teachers
April 21	General discussion – professional development papers due
April 28	Pizza Party & Closure☺