

George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
“Assessing Learning and Teaching in Secondary School”
EDUC674 – Fall 2010

Instructor: Professor Mary Williams, Ed.D.

Office: Commerce II / Room 112 (off campus)

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30-3:15pm, and by appointment

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Prerequisites: *Completion of the teacher licensure coursework for the Secondary Education Program [minimum of EDUC522 and 672, EDCI5xx methods, and EDCI6xx methods].*

Course Description and Relationship to Program Goals: EDUC 674 is a graduate course that supports beginning teachers’ design of assessment practices to promote student learning. The course focuses on the individual, classroom, teacher, school, and cultural factors that impact assessment; different types and purposes of assessment; and the relationship of assessment to national and state content standards. In this course teachers will integrate their knowledge from licensure courses and classroom practices to understand, develop, and implement assessment plans. This course highlights national standards for assessing teaching and learning in the content areas as outlined by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC). EDUC674 introduces concepts and methods used in action research in EDUC 675.

Learning Outcomes

By the completion of this course students will:

- Plan formal and informal assessments of student understanding of content area knowledge identified in state and national standards;
- Design, construct, and evaluate the following assessments [diagnostic, formative, summative, confirmatory, authentic performance task];
- Create multiple formats and strategies of assessment to target the diverse nature of learning in students and to encourage a variety of ways for students to exhibit understanding;
- Design rubrics that will be used to evaluate student work;
- Create a formal classroom grading policy;
- Provide a rationale for assessment plans using the research on teaching and learning;
- Integrate subject matter across disciplines to impact curriculum, teaching, and assessment and collaborate with cross-discipline colleagues to plan a unit of study;
- Examine the literature on teacher effectiveness and it’s link to student learning;
- Understand teacher evaluation and teaching standards; and
- Reflect on teaching effectiveness and student learning while developing a Philosophy of Learning and Teaching appropriate for a professional portfolio.

TEXTS (all required)

Danielson, C. (2007). *Enhancing professional practice: A framework for teaching (2nd Ed.)*. Alexandria, Virginia: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Commonwealth of Virginia (1995). *Standards of learning for Virginia public schools*. Richmond, Virginia: Author. [available online]

McTighe & Wiggins, G. (2005). *Understanding by design, expanded 2nd ed.* Alexandria, Virginia: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

National Content Standards in your discipline (NCSS, NCTE, NCTM, NSES). [available online]

COURSE DELIVERY

In addition to classroom attendance and participation, students are expected to complete readings, whole class and small group discussions, group and individual projects, internet research, analyses of case studies in learning teams, and reflections on practice. GMU's BlackBoard course framework will be used regularly throughout the course (familiarity with BlackBoard is expected). The course can be accessed at <http://bb-gmu.blackboard.com>

CEHD SYLLABUS STATEMENTS OF EXPECTATIONS

The Graduate School of Education (GSE) expects that all students abide by the following:

- Students are expected to exhibit professional behavior and dispositions. See www.gse.gmu.edu for a listing of these dispositions.
- Students must follow the guidelines of the University Honor Code. See http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#TOC_H12 for the full honor code.
- Students must agree to abide by the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. See <http://mail.gmu.edu> and click on Responsible Use of Computing at the bottom of the screen.
- Students who need assistance with writing should contact The Writing Center at GMU <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the GMU Disability Resource Center (DRC) and inform the instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester. See www.gmu.edu/student/drc or call 703-993-2474 to access the DRC.

ASSIGNMENTS & PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENTS (PBA)

Since this is a professional development course (post licensure), high quality work (i.e., "A" work) is expected on all assignments. Full in-class participation is expected. All assignments must be completed to successfully complete the course. Each assignment will be assessed using a scoring rubric, created by the class, and known to each student. For full consideration all assignments are due on the date designated in the Class Agenda.

I. Attendance/Participation (25%)

Attendance at **all** classes, for the entire class period, is a course expectation. Absences will affect the attendance grade. If you miss the equivalent of more than one class session you must see the instructor about dropping the course. Being on time is also essential and lateness will affect the grade. Participation in discussions is integral to the theory/practice connections that will be made in this course [discussions online count as 1/3 of the participation grade]. The ‘**participation rubric**’ and point system posted on the course website will be used to assess in-class and online participation.

II. Philosophy of Learning and Teaching (25%)

You will write a paper that serves as your philosophy of learning & teaching. You should use knowledge of all your licensure course work, readings, and classroom experience to address your beliefs about learning & teaching & assessment. Your philosophy should include your metaphor or a conceptual framework for learning, and must incorporate references to the INTASC standards and content standards.

The paper should express (1) how your philosophy influences your classroom practices, (2) examples of what you intend to do or have done related to educative assessment, and (3) research to support your ideas {direct quotes from Wiggins, etc.}. This paper is included as a major reflective piece in the graduate portfolio. **The scoring rubric for this assignment will be developed in class.**

III. Interdisciplinary Thematic Unit (PBA) (25%) TEAM grade

Given the following scenario: Your school has decided to emphasize the interdisciplinary nature of subjects. Therefore, you have been asked to work with teachers in other disciplines at the same grade level to develop an interdisciplinary thematic unit for their students. The unit is an intensive interdisciplinary study that will span all four core curricular areas for four weeks. The unit includes an authentic culminating activity. Each professional learning team (PLT) will use the “Backwards Design Model” to plan a unit that includes:

- a theme related to *social justice* that will meaningfully support teaching of the core secondary subjects; i.e., history, English, science, and mathematics;
- *essential questions* to guide student inquiry;
- a *rationale* to justify the unit plan using research and theory*;
- a *culminating project* (authentic performance-based assessment) that requires students to demonstrate mastery of content and performance standards in the core subjects;
- the *Standards of Learning* and *national content standards* that match up with the theme in each of the core subjects; and
- *summative assessment (instruments and scoring rubrics)* for the culminating project/authentic task which link to your essential questions.

*The rationale for the interdisciplinary thematic unit should include research and theory, such as levels of Bloom's Taxonomy and selection of learning styles; a description of ways the unit is interdisciplinary; the reasons for the culminating activity and its' assessment; and the grading of the culminating activity. Each PLT will present their curriculum and assessment plan to the class for feedback and approval.

The scoring rubric for this assignment will be developed in class.

IV. Content Assessment Plan (PBA) (25%) Individual grade

Using the “Backwards Design Model,” each student will create all assessment instruments to be used with their students in their subject lessons throughout the interdisciplinary thematic unit (above). Students will use the thematic unit as a starting point and design an assessment plan for each part of the unit that is completed in their content classes. NOTE: This is an *individual* project. You should use your unit teammates as a sounding board, as reviewer, and critic. Conversely, you will need to be a sounding board, reviewer, critic, etc. Each of you will submit your own written report and grades are assigned individually for this assignment. **The scoring rubric for this assignment will be developed in class.**

The **Assessment Plan** includes:

1. The **theme** and **essential questions** of the interdisciplinary unit, and include the following:
 - (a) **Standards of Learning** and **national content standards**
 - (b) an **outline** that shows the placement of each assessment within the unit;
 - (c) a **grading policy**, and
 - (d) a response to the **Design Standards** (Wiggins & McTighe).
2. **Appendices***:
 - a. ***Diagnostic assessment** instrument and assessment criteria.
 - b. ***Formative assessment** instruments and rubrics.
 - c. ***Confirmatory assessment** instrument and assessment criteria.
3. A **reflection** statement for **how your assessment plan for the Interdisciplinary unit demonstrates your mastery of one of the INTASC standards.**

All appendices (instruments, rubrics, and grading policy) must be submitted in ‘camera ready**’ format.

POSTNOTE: Retain copies of all course products to document your progress through the Secondary Education Program.

Products from this course (the ‘**Philosophy of Learning & Teaching**,’ ‘**Interdisciplinary Thematic Unit**,’ and ‘**Assessment Plan**’) should be included in your exit **portfolio** for the M.Ed. program and can also become part of your professional portfolio used for job placement.

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Graduate School of Education

EDUC674 “Assessing Learning and Teaching in Secondary Schools”
Fall 2010 Class Agenda [version 2.0] *

<u>DATE</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Reading and Assignments</u>
09/01	Introductory Activities, Standards, HOT/Bloom Assessment Metaphor, Course Overview LTs: Curriculum & Assessment	UBD2: Intro Content Standards
09/08	Ethical Bottom Line, Backwards Design, Goals/Themes, Essential Questions LearningTeams: Interdisciplinary Unit Planning	UBD2: 1, 2, 3 Content Standards
09/15	Graphic Organizers, Summative Assessment, Rubrics Standardized Tests, Performance Tasks, Criteria LearningTeams: Interdisciplinary Unit Planning	UBD2: 3, 4, 5, 6 Content Standards
09/22	Online LearningTeams: Discussion ‘Deep Understanding’, ‘Meta-Cognition,’ ‘Standards’ On your own: Respond to PoLT questions Online	UBD2: 8, 9, 11 POST Response: PoLT
09/29	Differentiated Assessment, Accommodations Teacher Made Tests, Formative Assessments LearningTeams: Interdisciplinary Unit Planning Draft: Rubric for Interdisciplinary Unit Draft: Rubric for Philosophy of L&T	UBD2: 7, 9, 10 Tomlinson (article)
10/06	Online LearningTeams: Discussion , Case Study (Rhodes) LearningTeams: Interdisciplinary Unit Planning	UBD2: 7, 9, 10 Case analysis PoLT (draft 1)
10/13	Interdisciplinary Thematic Unit Presentations Portfolios, Effective Learning = Effective Teaching Overview: UBD Assessment Plan Final: Rubric for Interdisciplinary Unit	Unit Presentations Peer Review
10/20	Online LearningTeams: Discussion Case Study (Hanover) On your own: UBD Assessment Plan On your own: work on PoLT	UBD2: 7, 9, 10 Case analysis (article: Darling-Hammond & Ifill-Lynch) Interdis Unit POSTED
10/27	Effective Teaching, Teaching Standards On your own: UBD Assessment Plan Final: Rubric for Philosophy of L&T	INTASC Danielson PoLT (draft 2)

11/03	Online Learning Teams: Discussion Case Study (Watson) On your own: work on PoLT	Danielson Case analysis Danielson
11/10	Teacher Assessment-Evaluation, Observation Checklists Draft: UBD Assessment Plan Rubric	UBD2: 7, 9, 11 Grading Policy
11/17	Teacher Mentoring + Support Groups, Professional Development Philosophy of Learning & Teaching POSTED Final: UBD Assessment Plan Rubric	Danielson **Philosophy Paper INTASC reflection
11/24	Thanksgiving Holiday	POST draft of assessment plan (not required)
12/01	Philosophy of L&T Synopsis [1 minute] On your own: finish UBD Assessment Plan	PoLT Synopsis
12/08	Assessment Plan POSTED	Assessment Plan

*This class agenda (**version 2.0**) is REVISED... Print a copy. Check our website regularly for any new version <http://bb-gmu.blackboard.com>

Note: Before coming to class **check the course website** for ANY notice regarding a change in the class schedule.

A copy of the ‘Philosophy of Learning & Teaching**’ paper must be included in your M.Ed. Portfolio.

