

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
INTRODUCTION TO TEACHING  
EDUC 300-001  
Spring 2010

Instructor: Dr. James E. Laws, Jr.  
Class Days & Time: Tuesday 7:20-10:00  
Class Location: Thompson Hall, Room 121  
Contact Information & Campus Hours:

I do not have an office on campus. You may leave messages at my home number at 202-882-3911 or e-mail me at [james.laws2@comcast.net](mailto:james.laws2@comcast.net)  
My mailbox can be found in Robinson A, Room 326.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Education 300 introduces students to the teaching profession through an examination of the roles of a teacher, the nature of American schools, with an emphasis on grades K-12: their teachers, organization, curriculum, students, future trends and contemporary issues. A field experience is required. Activities done during field experience are the major part of this experiential course. It is imperative that you participate in the field experience.

### **STUDENT OUTCOMES**

As a result of the field experience and the classroom activities, this course will help the student to:

#### **Groups and Institutions**

1. Describe professional aspects of teaching (concerning issues such as the teaching career, employment opportunities and professional organizations).
2. Identify aspects about control, management, organization and support of education.
3. Describe the historical and philosophical foundations of American education.
4. Identify contemporary issues in education that will affect teachers and schools.

#### **Students and Learning**

1. Describe the instructional implications of student characteristics.
2. Discuss the multicultural dimensions of the teaching environment.

#### **Teachers and Planning**

1. Describe the organization and development of the curriculum.
2. Describe how school programs and practices effect teaching decisions.

#### **Clinical Application and Practice**

1. Describe how classroom teachers address the issues of curriculum and instruction.
2. Assess their strengths and interests in relation to a career in teaching.
3. Describe how schools are governed and managed including how they are funded.
4. Identify and describe a personal educational philosophy.

### **TEXTBOOKS:**

One textbook is required, **Foundations of American Education**, Sixth Edition by Dean Webb, Arlene Metha, and K. Forbis Jordan.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

The course is experiential in nature and requires participation during class sessions and in the field experience component. All assignments are to be turned in on time.

Field Experience Registration Website, <http://cehd.gmu.edu/teacher/fieldexperience/>

## COMMITMENT AND ATTENDANCE:

Most of what you learn in class cannot be tested but is essential to your understanding of the field of education; therefore, **attendance in class is not optional**. If you must leave class early because of an appointment that could not be changed please **notify me in advance**. **When you are absent it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to have your assignments turned in on time even if you are not attending class**. If you cannot put your assignment in my mailbox prior to the beginning of class then you must email your assignment to me in order to get the full points.

**Class begins sharply at 7:20**. I expect you to be on time. You can expect the class to be challenging and interesting. Extra credit to make up missed assignments or to raise a grade is not an option. Please concentrate your time and effort on your assignments and the exams.

**HONOR CODE** – To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of George Mason University and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the members of George Mason University, have set forth the following code of honor. Any individual who is caught in the act of cheating, attempting to cheat, plagiarizing, or stealing will be brought forth before a council of their peers. In the event that the individual is found guilty, he or she will be punished accordingly. For further information, please refer to the University Catalog or Website at [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu)

## Calendar

| Class No. | Date        | Topic   | Reading Assignment      |
|-----------|-------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1         | January 19  | The Teaching Profession                                 | Chapters 1 and 2        |
| 2         | January 26  | Philosophy of Education                                 | Chapter 3               |
| 3         | February 2  | Educational Theories                                    | Chapter 4               |
| 4         | February 9  | Historical Foundations<br><b>Philosophy Paper Due</b>   | Chapters 5,6, and 7     |
| 5         | February 16 | Diversity in the Classroom                              | Chapters 8, 9, and 10   |
| 6         | February 23 | <b>Mid-Term Exam</b>                                    |                         |
| 7         | March 2     | Legal, Politics, and Financial Control                  | Chapters 11,12, and 13  |
| 8         | March 9     | Spring Break  |                         |
| 9         | March 16    | Curriculum and Instruction and Technology               | Chapters 14, 15, and 16 |
| 10        | March 23    | <b>Phillip Bigler,<br/>National Teacher of the Year</b> |                         |
| 11        | April 6     | <b>Rev. Steven Baines<br/>Case Study Due</b>            |                         |
| 12        | April 13    | Presentations   |                         |
| 13        | April 20    | Presentations   |                         |
| 14        | April 27    | Presentations   |                         |
| 15        | May 4       | <b>Final Exam</b>                                       |                         |

## Scoring and Grading

| <b>Assignment</b>                            | <b>Due Date</b> | <b>Total Possible Points</b> |
|--|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Philosophy Due                               | 02/09/2010      | 10                           |
| Exam One                                     | 02/23/2010      | 25                           |
| Case Study Due                               | 04/06/2010      | 20                           |
| Field Experience Completed                   | 04/2010         | 10                           |
| Field Experience Presentation                | 04/13-27/2010   | 10                           |
| Final Exam                                   | 05/04/2010      | 25                           |
| <b>Total Possible Points for Final Grade</b> |                 | <b>100</b>                   |

100–90 = A

89 – 80 = B

79 – 70 = C

69 – 60 = D

59 or less = F