

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
INTRODUCTION TO TEACHING
EDUC 300-001
Spring 2012

Instructor: Dr. James E. Laws, Jr.

Class Days & Time: Tuesday 7:20-10:00

Class Location: Robinson A, Room 210

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

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

Calendar

Class No.	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
1	January 24	The Teaching Profession	Chapters 1 and 2
2	January 31	Philosophy of Education	Chapter 3
3	February 7	Educational Theories	Chapter 4
4	February 14	Historical Foundations Philosophy Paper Due	Chapters 5, 6, and 7
5	February 21	Diversity in the Classroom	Chapters 8, 9, and 10
6	February 28	Mid-Term Exam	
7	March 6	Politics, Governance and Financial Control	Chapters 11, 12, and 13
8	March 13	Spring Break	
9	March 20	Curriculum and Instruction, and Legal and Ethical Issues, In-class case study	Chapters 14, 15, and 16
10	March 27	Review and Discussion of <u>Waiting for Superman</u> Case Study Distributed	
11	April 3	Rev. Steven Baines Case Study Due	
12	April 10	Guest Presenter, Phil Bigler National Teacher of the Year	
13	April 17	Presentations	
14	April 24	Presentations	
15	May 1	Presentations	
16	May 8	Final Exam	

Scoring and Grading

Assignment	Due Date	Total Possible Points
Philosophy Due	02/014/2012	10
Exam One	02/28/2012	25
Case Study Due	04/10/2012	20
Field Experience Completed	04/10/2012	10
Field Experience Presentation	04/10-5/1/12	10
Final Exam	05/08/2012	25
Total Possible Points for Final Grade		100

100–90 = A
 89 – 80 = B
 79 – 70 = C
 69 – 60 = D
 59 or less = F

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<http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu>

Academic Integrity

GMU Mail

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