



## FAST TRAIN Programs

George Mason University  
College of Education and Human Development  
FAST TRAIN IB Certificate Program

**EDUC 627: Contemporary Issues and Trends in IB**

**Fall 2013**

**June 24 – July 15 Thompson L028 9:00 am - 3:00 pm and online until November 15**

**Instructor:** Dr. Kimberley Daly, Ph.D.

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**Office Hours:** Please arrange ahead of time for Skype or conference call being mindful of the time zone difference. All other correspondence should be sent via e-mail.

**Course Description:**

This course focuses on current IB research, trends and issues as well as international, national and state/provincial legislation concerning schools and the potential impact on IB schools. Participants are prepared as leaders and advocates for IB programs and their students.

**Please ensure you read the whole syllabus. It contains important information that will help you complete the course smoothly.**

**Prerequisites:** Admission to GSE, enrollment in FAST TRAIN IB certificate program and completion of EDUC 621: Teaching and Learning in the International Baccalaureate Programs or permission of instructor.

**Nature of Course Delivery:**

The course will be taught face-to-face and online through a range of group and individual activities including investigations, readings, discussion board postings and reflections. Students are required to have the necessary technical skills, hardware/software and reliable internet access.

**Standards:**

**National Board of Professional Teaching Standards**

Proposition 1: Teachers are committed to students and their learning.

Proposition 2: Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects.

Proposition 3: Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.

Proposition 4: Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.

Proposition 5: Teachers are members of learning communities

ASTL 6: Teachers attend to the needs of culturally, linguistically and cognitively diverse learners.

ASTL 7: Teachers are change agents, teacher leaders, and partners with colleagues and families.

#### **Area of Inquiry 1: Curriculum Processes**

- A. What is international education and how does the IBO's mission and philosophy support it?
- A. What is the context in which your IB school exists? What political, social and legislative forces affect the delivery of the program?
- A. How are the aims of the IB program congruent with national philosophy in your context? How are they different?
- B. In what ways does your program support intercultural awareness and the development of cultural identity? International mindedness?
- B. In what ways does your program come into conflict with local norms, values and beliefs? How is that addressed?

#### **Area of Inquiry 4: Professional Learning**

- N. What is reflective practice and how does it support program implementation and enhance practice?
- N. How does your setting promote a Community of Learners?
- O. What is the role of collaborative working practice in supporting program learning outcomes?
- O. In what ways do political, social and legislative matters affect building a community of professional practice?
- P. In what ways is technology supporting your Community of Learners?
- P. How have you used technology to extend your learning community?
- P. How do we determine the effectiveness of our learning community?

#### **Technology (ISTE):**

IV. Teachers use technology to enhance their productivity and professional practice.

#### **Learner Outcomes:**

This course is designed to enable students to:

- a. gain knowledge of historical, political and theoretical perspectives as well as major current trends and issues in international education and how they related to current IB education professional roles and programs.
- b. examine the role of federal and state-provincial legislation and policy on education programs and services for children and their families.
- c. examine the purpose of advocacy and the role of local, state-provincial, national and international organizations.
- d. discuss the intersection of equity and excellence.
- e. synthesize the implications of current trends and issues within the context of historical, political and theoretical perspectives in international education.
- f. possess the knowledge and skills to communicate effectively on behalf of international education and IB programs.

### **Standards and Outcomes Table:**

<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>NBPTS/ASTL</b>	<b>IB</b>	<b>Technology</b>
A	1,5,7	a,b,n,o	
B	1,5,7	a,b,n,o	
C	5,6,7	a,b,o,p	
D	1,6	a,b	
E	1,4	a,b	
F	1,5,7	a,b,n,o,p	IV

### **Required text(s):**

Hayden, M., Levy, J., and J. Thompson. Eds. (2007). *The SAGE Handbook of Research in International Education*. London: SAGE

Davidson, S. and Carber, S. Eds. (2009). *Taking the PYP Forward*. Woodbridge: John Catt

Hayden, M. and Thompson, J. Eds. (2011). *Taking the MYP Forward*. Woodbridge: John Catt

Hayden, M. and Thompson, J. Eds. (2011). *Taking the IB Diploma Programme Forward*. Woodbridge: John Catt

Additional readings will be drawn from contemporary journals as well as the published research on international education and International Baccalaureate programs.

### **Technology Resources:**

- All students are required to have access to a computer with Internet access and a current GMU email account.
- All students will be enrolled in the online Curriculum Center through the International Baccalaureate Organization.

### **Relevant Websites:**

International Baccalaureate Organization, <http://www.ibo.org/>  
Practitioner Research as Staff Development, <http://valrc.org/publications/research/index.html>  
American Psychological Association, <http://www.apa.org>

### **Student Expectations:**

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].

- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.
- FAST TRAIN students are expected to attend *all* class period of courses for which they register. Class participation is a factor in grading; instructors may use class absence, absence of postings, tardiness in posting or attendance, or cursory postings as de facto evidence of nonparticipation and as a result lower the grade as stated in the course syllabus (Mason Catalog). Any unexcused absences will result in a 25 percent deduction in your participation grade.

### **Campus Resources:**

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].

### **Grading Scale:**

A+ = 100	(C = 70-79 = not accepted for Level I award recommendation)
A = 94-99	(F = Does not meet requirements of Graduate School of Education)
A- = 90-93	
B+ = 85-89	
B = 80-84 (no B- grades)	

### **PBA's:**

All courses in the Certificate Program in Advanced IB Studies will have a required Performance Based Assessment. The required PBA for this course is the Journal Manuscript. This assignment must be posted to Task Stream, where it will be reviewed and scored. Please see the FAST TRAIN website: [http://fasttrain.gmu.edu/assets/docs/fast\\_train/IB-Archive.pdf](http://fasttrain.gmu.edu/assets/docs/fast_train/IB-Archive.pdf) for more guidelines about the anthology.

Every student registered for any Certificate in IB Teaching and Learning course with a required performance-based assessment (will be designated as such in the syllabus) is required to submit this assessment, Journal Manuscript to Taskstream (regardless of whether a course is an elective, a onetime course or part of an undergraduate minor.) Evaluation of your performance-based assessment will also

be provided using Taskstream. Failure to submit the assessment to Taskstream will result in the course instructor reporting the course grade as Incomplete (IN). Unless this grade is changed upon completion of the required Taskstream submission, the IN will convert to an F nine weeks into the following semester.

**Incomplete (IN):**

This grade may be given to students who are in good standing, but who may be unable to complete scheduled course work for a cause beyond reasonable control. The student must then complete all the requirements by the ninth week of the next semester, not including summer term, and the instructor must turn in the final grade by the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> week. Unless an explicit written extension is filed with the Registrar’s Office by the faculty deadline, the grade if IN is changed by the registrar to an F (Mason catalog); Faculty may grant an incomplete with a contract developed by the student with a reasonable time to complete the course at the discretion of the faculty member. The faculty member does not need to allow up to the following semester for the student to complete the course. A copy of the contract will be kept on file in the FAST TRAIN office.

**Course Withdrawal with Dean Approval:**

For graduate and non-degree students, withdrawal after the last day for dropping a course requires approval by the student’s academic dean, and is permitted only for nonacademic reasons that prevent course completion (Mason catalog). Students must contact an academic advisor in FAST TRAIN to withdraw after the deadline. There is no guarantee that such withdrawals will be permitted.

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

Assignments and Evaluation overview			
Assignment	% of final grade	Outcomes addressed	Due date
Attendance, preparation and participation	15%	a,b,c,d	Cumulative grade
Seminar Series Plan	15%	a,b,c,d,e, f	July 8
Policy Analysis	20%	a,b,c,d,e,f	July 3
Annotated Bibliography	15%	a,b,c,e	July 15
Journal Manuscript (PBA*)	35%	a,b,c,d,e,f	November 15
Total	100%		

\* **Performance Based Assessment-** Must be submitted on TaskStream where it will be marked and stored as part of your IB Archive.

**Late Policy:**

At the graduate level all work is expected to be of high quality and submitted on the dates due. *Up to the due date*, you may submit any drafts of your work for review. Once your work is submitted and graded, the grade is final. As assignments are tied to progression through the syllabus and your reflection on your learning, *work submitted late will result in a reduction of one letter grade for each day late*.

## Seminar Series Plan

*This project is to be designed in conjunction with the instructor and should be relevant to the educational role of the participants. It will be either a small group or individual assignment. Student will create a professional development or seminar series applicable for teachers or participants in the International Baccalaureate programme. The focus, scope, and sequence of the series should be negotiated with the instructor prior to starting the project. The series should focus upon how the envisioned program meets the learning needs of the intended community of participants, and it should address the following components:*

1. Specify what audience (teachers, parents, students, etc.) is most likely to benefit from participating in the program
2. Specify the intended learning outcomes
3. Specify the learning activities and follow-up activities, and explain clearly how they will help participants achieve the intended outcomes
4. Specify how the program will be evaluated to determine
  - a. Participant perceptions of the relevance and usefulness of the program
  - b. Whether the program achieved the intended outcomes
5. Specify the resources necessary to support the learning activities, follow-up, and evaluation included in the plan
6. The seminar series plan will be presented in class.

<b>Seminar Series Plan (15% of grade)</b>				
<b>Criteria:</b>	<b>Exemplary 3</b>	<b>Proficient 2</b>	<b>Partially proficient 1</b>	<b>Not proficient 0</b>
<b>Series Plan Subject</b>	The project clearly, comprehensively and innovatively addresses the current trend or issue identified.	The project clearly addresses the current trend or issue identified.	The project somewhat addresses the current trend or issue identified	The project does not address the current trend or issue identified.
<b>IB Context</b>	Plan shows sophisticated understanding of the IB context.	Plan shows some understanding of the IB context.	Plan shows limited understanding of the IB context.	Plan shows little understanding of the IB context.
<b>Learning Outcomes and Evaluation</b>	Learning outcomes and evaluation are clearly defined in the series plan with clear links between the activities and the learning outcomes.	Learning outcomes and evaluation are defined in the plan with some links between the activities and the learning outcomes.	Learning outcomes and activities are linked but evaluation or another element may be less clear.	One or more of the required elements may be unclear or left out of the plan altogether.
<b>Organization</b>	Work is very clearly organized and very well-written with no significant errors.	Work is organized and generally well-written.	Organization and errors detract from overall quality.	Work is disorganized and poorly written.
<b>References</b>	A range of academic references is used to very good effect.	Some academic references are included.	Some academic references are included.	Academic references are missing or incomplete.

## Policy Analysis

Students will select a policy at district, regional or national level and analyze its impact on IB programmes, professional roles and student learning. This assignment will be done individually and is meant for students to critically assess how policy impacts programs, students, teachers and/or organizations. Students are encouraged to seek out sources from various parts of the world and publications if relevant. The paper should be about three to five pages.

Policy Analysis (20% of grade)				
Criteria:	Exemplary 4	Proficient 3	Partially proficient 2	Not proficient 1
<b>Description</b>	Provides very clear, concise overview of selected policy.	Provides clear overview of selected policy.	Provides basic overview of selected policy.	Overview of selected policy is minimal or missing.
<b>Analysis</b>	Provides extensive, detailed analysis of impact on IB programmes, professional roles and student learning. Shows in-depth understanding of both the policy and the IB context.	Provides analysis, in some detail, of impact on IB programmes, professional roles and student learning. Shows sound understanding of both the policy and the IB context.	Provides unclear or incomplete analysis of impact on IB programmes, professional roles and student learning. Shows basic understanding of both the policy and the IB context.	Provides insubstantial analysis of impact on IB programmes, professional roles and student learning. Shows little understanding of either the policy or the IB context.
<b>Connections</b>	Is perceptive in identifying implications for own school and classroom, making several specific connections between policy and practice.	Identifies implications for own school and classroom, making some specific connections between policy and practice.	Identifies some implications for own school and classroom, although connections between policy and practice are superficial.	Makes no substantial connections between policy and practice
<b>Reflection</b>	Provides extensive, thoughtful reflection on own reaction to policy and identifies and examines potential biases.	Provides thoughtful reflection on own reaction to policy and identifies potential biases.	Provides some reflection on own reaction to policy but does not identify potential biases.	Provides no critical reflection.
<b>Overall</b>	Very clearly organized and very well-written with no significant errors. A range of academic references used effectively to support analysis.	Clearly organized and well-written with few errors. Academic references used effectively to support analysis.	Organization and errors detract from overall quality of writing. Some academic references are included.	Disorganized and poorly written. Academic references are missing or incomplete.

## Annotated Bibliography

This assignment is connected to the final assignment/PBA and should be done with this assignment in mind. It is designed to get students thinking in the direction of the PBA. Students should select a topic of relevance around a current trend or issue in IB schools. As students research that topic, they should construct an annotated bibliography of at least six sources related to that topic. Sources should be from a variety of scholarly sources in relation to nationality of author, time and journal and all should be listed with a correct APA citation and brief annotation (one to two paragraphs) explaining the content of the source.

<b>Annotated Bibliography (15% of grade)</b>				
<b>Criteria:</b>	<b>Exemplary</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Partially proficient</b>	<b>Not proficient</b>
	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Research Question</b>	Sources provide a very clear idea of the research question.	Sources provide a clear idea of the research question.	Research question may be less defined.	Research question is hard to ascertain.
<b>Required Sources</b>	At least 6 sources are provided and annotated.	At least 6 sources are provided and annotated.	At least 6 sources are provided and annotated.	< 6 sources are provided and annotated.
<b>APA Format</b>	Correct APA style is used.	Minor mistakes using APA style.	Minor mistakes using APA style.	Mistakes made using APA style make it difficult to determine where the source was found.
<b>Annotations</b>	Annotations show that the writer clearly understood article and connects it to their research question as well as evaluated it as scholarship.	Annotations show that the writer understood article and mostly connects it to their research question as well as evaluated it as scholarship.	Annotations may be less clear about the connections between the research question or how sources were evaluated for scholarship.	Some annotations problematic either in connection between research question or how they were evaluated as scholarship.
<b>Overall</b>	Very clearly organized and very well-written with no significant errors. A range of academic sources used effectively.	Clearly organized and well-written with few errors. Academic sources used effectively.	Organization and errors detract from overall quality of writing. Sources may all be from same place.	Disorganized and poorly written. Academic sources are incomplete, out of date or disconnected.

## Journal Manuscript

This project is to be designed in conjunction with the instructor and should be relevant to the educational role of the participant. The student will select a topic of relevance around a current trend or issue in IB schools, research that topic and craft a publishable quality paper. There are two goals for this exercise: 1) to encourage students to think about the course readings and to his/her own experiences in



the program in greater depth and 2) to help develop how to express ideas and defend them with appropriate supporting material.

As part of this assignment, and so that you are provided with some support during this process, you will be required to seek feedback from two people prior to submitting your final assignment. This will allow you to receive feedback from peers and consider changes in the hopes of improving your paper. Your final submission will include a two page written reflection as well as the revised final journal manuscript.

<b>Journal Manuscript (35% of grade)</b>				
<b>Criteria:</b>	<b>Exemplary 5</b>	<b>Proficient 3</b>	<b>Partially proficient 1</b>	<b>Not proficient 0</b>
<b>Rationale</b>	Rationale for the significance or importance of the project is clear and examples and/or justification are articulated clearly.	Rationale for the significance or importance of the project is identified and adequately articulated.	Rationale for the significance or importance of the project is provided but lacks clarity.	Rationale for the significance or importance of the project is missing or very unclear.
<b>Connections to Current Trend or Issue in IB</b>	Provides extensive, detailed analysis of impact on IB programmes, professional roles and/or student learning. Shows in-depth understanding of the IB context.	Provides analysis, in some detail, of impact on IB programmes, professional roles and/or student learning. Shows sound understanding of the IB context.	Provides unclear or incomplete analysis of impact on IB programmes, professional roles and/or student learning. Shows basic understanding of the IB context.	Provides insubstantial analysis of impact on IB programmes, professional roles and/or student learning. Shows little understanding of the IB context.
<b>Connections to Literature and Research</b>	The project establishes clear and accurate connections to readings/research.	The project generally establishes connections to the readings/ research.	The project establishes some connections to the readings/ research.	The project outlines the project but does not provide clear connections to readings/research.
<b>Language /Writing</b>	Author makes no, or very few, errors in grammar, spelling or mechanics. Uses language masterfully to express ideas. Writing is clearly at the graduate level and shows careful editing	Author makes minimal to few errors in grammar, mechanics or spelling. Uses language with elaboration to express ideas. Writing is generally at the graduate level, but may benefit from more careful editing.	Author makes some errors in grammar, mechanics or spelling that distracts the reader from the content. Uses language that is appropriate but may not be fluent or engaging. Writing approaches that of graduate level quality, but may need additional development.	Author makes more than 5 errors in grammar, mechanics or spelling that distract the reader from the content, or there are error patterns evident. Writing is not at the level of graduate work.

<b>Critical Reflection</b>	The author includes a rich reflection that draws clear conclusions, and explains a personal understanding of growth in the topic and its connections and applications to the author's professional context.	The author has included a reflection at the conclusion that generally is reflective in nature, however, more elaboration or personal understanding and growth in the topic and its connection to the author's professional context would strengthen the reflection.	The author appears to be making meaning of the project, but the reflection may need further elaboration to articulate the author's personal understanding and growth in the topic and/or its connection to the author's professional context.	The author has reported information without elaboration or has drawn conclusions without justification. There is a brief reflection only, or the reflection does not articulate the author's personal understanding and growth in the topic as a result of this study, or present a connection to the author's professional context.
<b>Overall</b>	Very clearly organized and very well-written with no significant errors. A range of academic references used effectively to support analysis.	Clearly organized and well-written with few errors. Academic references used effectively to support analysis.	Organization and errors detract from overall quality of writing. Some academic references are included.	Disorganized and poorly written. Academic references are missing or incomplete.

## Class Schedule Summer 2013

**Assignments due during the face-to-face class are due by 8:00 p.m. EST. The PBA is due by midnight EST on November 15, 2013.**

Date	Assignments	Readings
<b>Session 1:</b> <b>June 24, 2013</b>	<p><b>Welcome to EDUC 627</b>  Read the syllabus fully making sure you understand the requirements, assignments, deadlines and grading policies.</p> <p>Skim required texts to familiarize yourself with the overall structure and content.</p> <p><b>Introduction to contemporary issues and trends in IB</b>  Write a short report introducing yourself and your school context, including some educational issues / trends that have affected you (positively and/or negatively).  Submit your report (about 500 words) on the <b>Discussion Board</b>.</p> <p><b>Focus on the PYP</b></p>	<p><i>Read the syllabus fully.</i></p> <p><i>Skim required texts.</i></p> <p><i>Read and respond to classmates' postings.</i></p> <p><b>For class on June 24<sup>th</sup>:</b>  <i>Read the Sage Handbook of Research in International Education (Sage Handbook) Chs 2 &amp; 5.</i></p> <p><i>Browse the PYP Section of the IB website.</i></p> <p><i>Read The PYP as a Model of Transdisciplinary Learning (on Bb).</i></p>
<b>Session 2:</b> <b>June 26, 2013</b>	<p><b>Focus on the MYP and the DP</b></p> <p>Bring to class a list of the strengths and weaknesses of the MYP and the DP</p>	<p><i>Browse the MYP and DP sections of the IBO website.</i></p> <p><i>Read Teaching the Disciplines in the MYP: Nurturing Big Ideas and Deep Understanding (on Bb).</i></p> <p><i>Browse the DP Coordinator publications on the OCC.</i></p>

<b>Session 3: July 1, 2013</b>	<b>International-mindedness, Culture, and Identity in International Schools</b>	<i>Read Sage Handbook Ch 7 and 11 Read PYPF Ch 8 &amp; 11 Read MYPF Ch 7 and 13 Read DPF Ch 16</i>
<b>Session 4: July 3, 2013 (Class will meet from 9 am-12 pm)</b>	<b>IB Programmes in Public Schools</b>  Students will meet individually with instructor to discuss possibilities for PBA assignment during seminar series work time today.  <b>Policy Analysis Due</b>	Read Taylor & Porath, Connor & Mayer (all on Bb) <i>Read PYPF Ch 12</i>
<b>Session 5: July 8, 2013</b>	<b>Teachers, Language and Leadership in International Schools</b>  <b>Seminar Series Plan Presentations at the beginning of class. Seminar Series Plan Due</b>	<i>Read Sage Handbook Chs 20, 21, &amp; 30 Read PYPF Ch 6 Read MYPF Ch 8 &amp; 10</i>
<b>Session 6: July 10</b>	<b>IB Programmes in National Contexts</b>	<i>Read MYPF Ch 12 Read DPF Chs 6,13,&amp;14</i>
<b>Session 7: July 15 Online</b>	<b>Future Challenges</b>  On the <b><i>Discussion Board</i></b> comment on what you see as some of the main future challenges for teachers, assessment, schools and/or programming for the IB. Your response should be approximately 500 words.  <b>Annotated Bibliography Due</b>  <b>Complete Post-Assessment by July 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Read PYPF Ch 13 Read MYPF Chs 14 &amp; 15 Read DPF Chs 4</i>  <i>Complete <b>two</b> Discussion Board Questions related to these readings. Each response should be between 250 and 400 words.</i>
<b>No Later than October 1, 2013</b>	Submit a draft of your journal manuscript to each member of your writing group. You should review each manuscript in your writing group and make critical edits to the manuscript returning it <b>no later than October 15.</b>	
<b>November 15, 2013</b>	<b>Journal Manuscript and Reflection Due in Taskstream</b>	