

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAM**

EDCI 597 Section 001
Internship Seminar in Secondary Education Teaching
2 Credits, Spring 2016

Instructor: Paula Cristina Azevedo, PhD
Date and Time: Wednesday, 5:00 - 7:00pm
Class Location: Thompson Hall L003
E-mail: pazevedo@gmu.edu
Office hours: By appointment only

Course Catalog Description: Evaluates the effects of teacher actions on others (students, parents, and other professionals in the learning community) and provides opportunities for professional growth.

Number of Credits: 2 semester hours

Course Prerequisites: Admission to professional semester

Co-requisites: EDCI 490

Course Description

The primary aims of this seminar are to address the [2013](#) the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium ([InTASC](#)) [Learning Progressions for Teachers Standard #9](#) and to support the work of the internship.

Course Learning Outcomes/Objectives

In concert with the goals and objectives of the Secondary Education internship, seminar students will:

- Develop skills of reflective practitioners; continually evaluate their practices, particularly the effects of their professional choices and professional interactions with others
- Demonstrate abilities to critically reflect upon teaching episodes and willingness to propose and/or accept alternative approaches
- Present thoughtful research-based rationales for instructional decision-making
- Collaborate with other teacher interns and in professional learning communities to discuss internship challenges and successes related to lessons, activities, and assessments which align with learning objectives and evidence of student learning
- Explore ways to elicit data related to student background (e.g., interests, needs, culture), school, and community, and make sensitive use of this information

Relationship to Program Goals and Professional Organizations

The course focuses on support and discussion related to designing classroom environments that meet the needs of all learners as called for by the [Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools](#), as outlined by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation ([CAEP](#)), by each of the content Specialized Professional Associations (SPA), and by [InTASC](#).

Course Overview

The internship seminar is a course taken during students' internship experience. It is an ongoing exchange in which interns are both participants and developers in their own professional learning. Interns are expected to share their own experiences in their classrooms and school communities. Students engage in and discuss what it means to participate in an ongoing process of professional development as teachers and learners.

Textbook and Resource Materials Required

No textbook purchase is required for this course. **A current subscription to Edthena is required.** Access to Internet and Blackboard are required.

Online Resources

- Commonwealth of Virginia (2010). *Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools*. <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/index.shtml>
- Access to professional standards documents as specified by content area.
- Other resources will be distributed in class or posted on-line at the course website.

Your GMU email address is required for communication with the course instructor and for use of Blackboard. The Blackboard site can be found at

<https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

Use the same login as your GMU email.

Recommended Readings

Brookfield, S. (1995). *Becoming a critically reflective teacher*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Burant, T., Christensen, L., Salas, K. D., Walters, S. (Eds.). (2010). *The new teacher book: Finding purpose, balance and hope during your first years in the classroom* (2nd ed.). Milwaukee, WI: Rethinking Schools.

Cary, S. (2007). *Working with English Language Learners: Answers to teachers' top ten questions* (2nd ed.). Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Chapman, R. (2008). *The everyday guide to special education law: A handbook for parents, teachers, and other professionals* (2nd ed.). Denver, CO: The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People

Delpit, L. (2006). *Other people's children: Cultural conflict in the classroom*. New York, NY: The New Press.

Freire, P. (1994). *Pedagogy of the oppressed*. New York: Continuum. (Original work published 1970)

Garcia, E. E. (2005). *Teaching and learning in two languages: Bilingualism and schooling in the United States*. New York, NY: Teachers College.

- Glanz, J. (2009). *Teaching 101: Classroom strategies for the beginning teacher* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin
- Gorski, P., Zenkov, K., Osei-Kofi, N., & Sapp, J. (Eds.). (2012). *Cultivating social justice teachers: How teacher educators have helped students overcome cognitive bottlenecks and learn critical social justice concepts*. Sterling, VA: Stylus.
- Knowles, J. G., Cole, A. L., with Presswood, C. S. (1994). *Through preservice teachers' eyes*. New York: Merrill.
- Kugler, E. G. (2012). *Innovative Voices in Education: Engaging Diverse Communities*. New York, NY: Rowman & Littlefield Education.
- Ladson-Billings, G. (2009). *The dreamkeepers: Successful teachers of African American children*. San Francisco, CA: Wiley/Jossey-Bass.
- Nieto, S. (2005). *Why we teach*. New York, NY: Teacher College Press.
- Oakes, J., Lipton, M., Anderson, L., Stillman, J. (2012). *Teaching to change the world* (4th ed.). Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers.
- Samaras, A. P., & Sell, C. (2013). Please write: Using critical friend letters in teacher research. *Teacher Education Quarterly*, 40 (4), 93-109.
- Schwarz, P. (2006). *From disability to possibility: The power of inclusive classrooms*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.
- Sornson, B. (2005). *Creating classrooms where teachers love to teach: And students love to learn*. Golden, CO: Love and Logic Institute, Inc.
- Thompson, J. G. (2013). *The first-year teacher's survival guide: Ready-to-use strategies, tools, and activities for meeting the challenges of each school day* (3rd ed.). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass
- Wong, H. K., & Wong, R. T. (2009). *The first days of school: How to be an effective teacher* (4th ed.). Mountain View, CA: Harry K. Wong Publications, Inc.

Attendance Policy

Attendance in the course is mandatory. If you cannot come to a specific class session due to a schedule conflict, notify the instructor at least one week in advance for an excused absence. Attendance is tied into your participation grade. If you are not in class, you are not participating.

Late Work

Work is due on the announced due date. All late work will incur a penalty of 10 percent for each day late. The only exception to this is for those students with excused absences (see Attendance Policy above).

Course Requirements and Grading Scale

All assignments should be turned in on the due date indicated in the schedule below via Blackboard (unless directed otherwise) by midnight. All projects must be typed, in 12-point font, with one inch margins, double-spaced, in Times New Roman font. Professional writing quality (including mechanics, organization, and content) is expected in each writing assignment, so please proofread carefully. Late papers and projects will not be accepted without penalty (10% each day late), excepting extraordinary circumstances. Please see instructor with questions and concerns about assignments, expectations, or seminar activities.

TK20 PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT

Every student registered for any Secondary Education course with a required performance-based assessment is required to submit this assessment, [NOT APPLICABLE] to Tk20 through Blackboard (regardless of whether the student is taking the course as an elective, a onetime course or as part of an undergraduate minor). Evaluation of the performance-based assessment by the course instructor will also be completed in Tk20 through Blackboard. Failure to submit the assessment to Tk20 (through Blackboard) will result in the course instructor reporting the course grade as Incomplete (IN). Unless the IN grade is changed upon completion of the required Tk20 submission, the IN will convert to an F nine weeks into the following semester.

Class Participation (weekly)

Your attendance and participation at your school and seminar sessions is critical not only to your own success, but to that of your colleagues. Attendance and participation are expected in both your classroom and in seminars, but emergencies do arise. Please notify your cooperating teacher and your supervisor if you will be tardy or absent from your internship or seminar. Excessive late arrivals, lack of preparation, and any unsatisfactory absence—one that is not pre-arranged and/or approved by an instructor—will severely and negatively impact your grade. Projects late due to unsatisfactory absences will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor. Attendance and completion of seminar assignments can affect whether or not you successfully complete your internship. Please turn all electronic devices on silent when you enter class.

Becoming a Reflective Practitioner (weekly)

You are becoming a professional teacher. Be open to new experiences, ideas, challenges, and your continuous professional development. It is your responsibility to come to class with insights, questions, comments, and concerns based on your internship experience. The quality of our conversations and your growth will be largely based on your commitment to engaging deeply with your student teaching experience. In order to reflect on your own learning and to be ready to discuss your insights, questions, you will need to keep a daily journal (physical or electronic) of your experience. This will be a private place for you to keep track of best practices, big ideas, and burning issues. Please bring your journal to the seminars and conferences. In conjunction with your working portfolio, maintain a notebook in which you make substantive entries every day you are in the field. Entries may consist of a description of a particular experience that day, questions and concerns about the incident, and thoughts about how you will respond to this experience in the future. In addition, you will complete a reflection form (see Appendix A) each week. Post it on our Blackboard discussion site (see below).

Weekly Blackboard Discussion Board Participation (weekly)

You are expected to log on a several times a week to check for assignments, posts, and/or participate in online discussions. Your online commitment includes the following tasks:

Posting of your weekly reflection based on your internship experience (see Appendix A). Each week there will be a new thread available for your weekly reflection. The weekly reflection is due no later than Sunday by 11:59 pm.

As a critical friend you will respond to your colleague's weekly reflection on Blackboard by the time we meet for class. Your responses to your colleague's posts should be respectful, intellectually curious, and go beyond the superficial (e.g. "That's great!").

Reflection about Lesson Plans (selected date)

On the date you select, bring to seminar one complete lesson plan that you recently taught, an uploaded video on Edthena, as well as any teaching tools you used and a sample of student work produced in this lesson. This can be a lesson and/or video that you shared with your university supervisor. You will show a portion (1-3 minutes) of the video in class that you want to further evaluate, reflect on, and discuss with your peers. Come prepared to discuss, reflect, and ask and answer questions. The presentation and discussion will be about 10-12 minutes long.

*Note: A week prior to your presentation of the lesson plan, you will share the video through Edthena with your critical friends and post a reflection on that lesson. You and your critical friends will reflect and discuss the 10-15 minute long video. Like your weekly reflection, your responses to your colleague's video and reflection should be respectful, intellectually curious, and go beyond the superficial.

Community Mapping (Feb 10)

It is important for you to know your students, their families, and the surrounding community. Your job is to explore and learn about the community. You will create a digital map (e.g., Google maps) with details about the following information:

1. What kinds of retail options are available in the community?
2. Are there recreational spaces (i.e. parks, community centers) for children and teenagers?
3. What grocery and food options are there?
4. What additional resources are available to the community (i.e. university, library)?
5. Are there local cultural (i.e. art centers, theaters), historical (i.e. historical plaques, archives) and environmental resources (i.e. city, state, or federal parks, zoo) in or near the community?
6. Additional resources or information that you think is necessary to know (i.e. traffic patterns, socioeconomics, racial mix in neighborhoods).

You will present your findings in a one to two page paper. Be ready to also present your map and findings to the class. Here are some guiding questions to help you write your results:

1. Overall, what did you learn about the community?
2. What did you learn about the community that surprised you?
3. How could community mapping be useful in your class/impact your teaching practices?
4. In what ways, if any, were your perceptions changed or enhanced by learning a little more about the community you work in?

Grading Scale

Assignment	Due Dates	Points	Percentage of final grade
Class participation	Weekly	60	30
Reflections and participation	Weekly	100	50
Reflection about lesson plan	Selected date	20	10
Community mapping	Feb 10	20	10
Total		200	100

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	100 - 93
A-	92 - 90
B+	89 - 88
B	87 - 83
B-	82 - 80
C	79 - 70
F	Below 70%

GMU POLICIES AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

- a. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code (See <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>).
- b. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- c. 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.
- d. 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/>).
- e. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services and inform their instructor, in writing, as soon as possible. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).

- f. Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- g. 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/>).

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

http://cehd.gmu.edu/assets/docs/forms/secondary_ed/sec_ed_handbook.pdf

Core Values Commitment

The College of Education & Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles. <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>

Emergency Procedures

You are encouraged to sign up for emergency alerts by visiting the website <https://alert.gmu.edu>. There are emergency posters in each classroom explaining what to do in the event of crises. Further information about emergency procedures exists on

<http://www.gmu.edu/service/cert>

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Proposed Topic
January 20	<p>Topic: Introduction to the course, internship expectations and reflective practice</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> Become familiar with course BlackBoard site</p>
January 27	<p>Topic: Reflective practice and the role of critical friends Guest Speaker: Jeff Davis, Director of Clinical Practice</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> Reflection 1 due on Sunday, Jan 31; Respond to critical friend by Wednesday, Feb 3 Work on the community map assignment</p>
February 3	<p>Topic: Curriculum and standards</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> Reflection 2 due Sunday, Feb 7 Respond to critical friend by Wednesday, Feb 10</p>
February 10	<p>Topic: The community - engaging with families and neighborhoods Community Map due</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> Reflection 3 due Sunday, Feb 14 Respond to critical friend by Wednesday, Feb 17</p>
February 17	<p>Topic: Teacher work sample workshop</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> Reflection 4 due Sunday, Feb 21 Respond to critical friend by Wednesday, Feb 24</p>
February 24	<p>Topic: Classroom community and school culture Lesson Discussion</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> Reflection 5 due Sunday, Feb 28 Respond to critical friend by Wednesday, Mar 2</p>
March 2	<p>Topic: Preparing for the job market Guest Speaker: Charlotte Strauss</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> Reflection 6 due Sunday, Mar 6 Respond to critical friend by Wednesday, Mar 9 Bring your resume</p>
March 9	<p>SPRING HOLIDAY – no class</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> Reflection 7 due Sunday, Mar 13 Respond to critical friend by Wednesday, Mar 16</p>
March 16	<p>Topic: Classroom and time management NO CLASS- Blackboard activity</p> <p>*Reminder Education Recruitment Day 9 AM – 11:30 AM Dewberry Hall, JC</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> Reflection 8 due Sunday, Mar 20</p>

	Respond to critical friend by Wednesday, Mar 23
March 23	<p>Topic: Classroom presence (cont' discussion on classroom and time management) Lesson Discussion</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> No reflections due to counties' spring break</p>
March 30	<p>Topic: Student and teacher assessments Teacher Work Sample Check-In Lesson Discussion</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> Reflection 9 due Sunday, Mar 27 Respond to critical friend by Wednesday, Mar 30</p>
April 6	<p>Topic: Diversity and differentiation Lesson Discussion</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> Reflection 10 due Sunday, April 3 Respond to critical friend by Wednesday, April 6</p>
April 13	<p>Topic: When class doesn't go as planned</p> <p>Teacher Work Sample Check-In</p> <p>Lesson Discussion</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> Work on Teacher work sample</p>
April 20	<p>Guest Speaker: Licensure Specialist Topic: Working in a PLC</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> Work on Teacher work sample</p>
April 27	<p>Topic: Complete course evaluation. Reflect on experiences and plans for the future. Write a letter to next semester's interns</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> Finishing touches on Teacher work sample</p>

Appendix A
Weekly Reflection Form

Week of : _____

Name: _____

Content Area: _____

1. As you reflect on the week, were the students in the class you taught or observed cognitively engaged in the work? How do you know?

2. Did the students learn what they were expected to learn? How do you know? If you don't know at this point, when will you know, and what will be evidence of their learning?

3. How did the instructional strategies you chose or observed support student learning? How do you know?

4. What have you or your cooperating teacher done to promote a culture for learning in your classroom?

5. Were lesson plans altered or were outcomes adjusted over the week as lessons were taught? If so, how and for what reason?

6. If you had the opportunity to teach the lesson (or teach it again) to the same group of students, what would you do differently?

7. Share any additional comments about you week here.