

COLLEGES OF WORCESTER CONSORTIUM, INC.
Certificate in College Teaching

IDND30502 Practicum in College Teaching
Spring 2010

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Susan Wyckoff
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Colleges of Worcester Consortium
484 Main Street – Suite 500, Worcester, MA 01608
swyckoff@cowc.org
508-754-6829

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

The Practicum in College Teaching is intended to serve as a capstone experience for the Certificate in College Teaching. Participants enrolled in the Practicum will:

- participate in a mentored teaching experience; and
- document their teaching experience by preparing a course portfolio.

Each student will have a pedagogical mentor (the Practicum instructor) and, as appropriate and possible, a content mentor (a faculty member in the discipline). Details of the Practicum are negotiable depending on the level of experience and particular circumstances of the student.

The goal of the Practicum is to provide students with peer and pedagogical mentorship through a teaching and/or course development experience. Your Practicum "product" will be a polished teaching portfolio.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the Practicum, students will have:

1. engaged in "reflective practice" by
 - a. applying to classroom practice pedagogical techniques that they have learned in prior Certificate courses, and
 - b. receiving feedback and reflecting upon their teaching practice; and
2. produced a polished teaching portfolio suitable for use in a job search or for promotion/tenure purposes.

COURSE MEETINGS

The Practicum course will be run from January 27 through April 30, 2010. Class meetings will be held at the Colleges of Worcester Consortium office as arranged. Course participants will also be scheduled to observe peers' classes on a pre-arranged basis throughout the semester

Go to www.cowc.org for directions and parking information.

REQUIRED TEXTS

None, but please have available for reference both the portfolio preparation manual that you used in the Seminar in College Teaching, and the portfolio that you prepared in that course.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Your grade will be determined by individual contract, by some combination of the following. The particular grade weighting that will be used for your grade must be communicated in writing to Susan no later than Feb. 10.

1. Quality of teaching, determined jointly by Susan (using rubric on the course web site) and your content mentor; if there is no content mentor, then the pedagogical mentor will determine the entire grade. This component must comprise at least 20% of your grade.
2. Quality of your final portfolio, determined by Susan (using a rubric available on the course web site). This component must comprise at least 20% of your grade. Portfolio due date is May 14.
3. Attendance and participation in Practicum activities, including participating in course activities listed below, and providing thoughtful feedback to other students. This component must comprise at least 10% of your grade.

COURSE ACTIVITIES

1. Practicum meetings, during which we will discuss:
 - o Pedagogical issues that students bring to each meeting
 - o Class observations
 - o Portfolio preparation and feedback
2. Observe each other's classes and provide written feedback, using the feedback form provided
 - o Each student is expected to observe and provide written feedback on two classes for one other student.
 - o Susan will observe and provide written feedback on at least two classes for each student.
3. Students, on a rotating basis, will lead one presentation and discussion on a pedagogical topic of their choice at class meetings. Sample topics will be discussed at the first class meeting.

ROLE OF CONTENT MENTORS

Your content mentor will typically be either the professor who is teaching the course in which you are participating; or, if you are teaching a stand-alone course, a faculty member or department chair in the department in which you are teaching. Your content mentor may also be a faculty member from the discipline in which you are teaching, but affiliated with a different institution from the one at which you are teaching.

Content mentors are asked to

4. Be available for consultation about the development of course materials. Please consult with your content mentor to review course materials before the course begins, and at regular intervals during the course.
5. Observe you teach at least twice, and provide you with written feedback. Please submit feedback documentation to Susan prior to the end of the course.