

COLLEGES OF WORCESTER CONSORTIUM, INC.
Certificate in College Teaching

CT 901: Seminar in College Teaching (Online)
Fall 2011
Syllabus

COURSE SCHEDULE

The course week runs Wednesday through Tuesday. Regular class work will run from Wednesday, September 14 through Tuesday, November 1, with assignment deadlines until Monday, November 14. All work will be asynchronous and online; there will be no face to face meetings. All major assignments are due on Mondays at midnight. The final submission date for course assignments is midnight on Monday, November 14, 2011.

INSTRUCTORS

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INTRODUCTION TO COURSE

The need for college professors to have some formal training in educational theory and practice is increasingly obvious. Graduate students who have had some formal training and mentored experience in undergraduate teaching find that they have a competitive edge when it comes to searching for their first faculty position. Most faculty have not had such preparation, and many reach a stage in their teaching career when they wish to learn more about what they've been doing, in some cases for years. This seminar is designed to acquaint graduate students and faculty with fundamental principles and theories of education and with instructional practices associated with effective college teaching. This information applies without regard to the particular nature of the subject matter being taught; the emphasis is on pedagogy, not course content. This seminar will include readings, "lectures," discussions, and individual and group activities. During this course, each student will produce a portfolio that contains materials (syllabus, instructional materials, and video recorded lecture) for a course that s/he could someday teach, along with a narrative statement of teaching philosophy.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have prepared a teaching portfolio consisting of materials for teaching an introductory course of their choosing, and demonstrating mastery of the following course objectives:

1. Articulate a philosophy of teaching and explain how they will put it into practice.
2. Develop performance based objectives and a course syllabus containing essential components.
3. Develop assessment and evaluation techniques based on sound pedagogical principles.
4. Demonstrate the ability to design and deliver an effective lecture presentation.
5. Articulate and develop varied active learning methods.
6. Integrate web-based tools into instructional activities.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Davis, B.G. (2009). Tools for Teaching, 2/e. {"TfT"} San Francisco: Jossey-Bass. ISBN-10: 0787965677 ISBN-13: 978-0787965679.

Mues, F. & Sorcinelli, M.D. (2000). Preparing a Teaching Portfolio. {"PTP"} Amherst, Massachusetts: The Center for Teaching, University of Massachusetts. Available free online at <http://www.umass.edu/cft/publications/teachingportfolio.pdf>.

Wankat, P. & Oreovicz. (1993). Teaching Engineering. New York: McGraw-Hill. {"TE"} Out of print; available free on line at <https://engineering.purdue.edu/ChE/AboutUs/Publications/TeachingEng/index.html>.

Also posted in pdf format on the course web site; used bound copies are available from online used booksellers such as half.com. We will use chapters 4, 6, 7.2, 11, and 15 only.

OTHER COURSE MATERIALS

Course materials will be posted and assignments will be available via the WSU Blackboard website at: <https://community.worcester.edu/>.

If you are registered for the course, you should have access to the site; follow the directions on the login page.

TECHNOLOGY EXPECTATIONS

- Access to a standard PC or an Apple desktop or laptop computer.
- Access to a broadband internet connection
- Ability to send and receive email and email attachments
- MS Office or equivalent
- Adobe's Acrobat PDF reader (available free from <http://www.adobe.com>)
- Access to a video camera. Video cameras can be borrowed from your institution's IT Department or rented commercially; also, many digital "point and shoot" cameras and smart phones have video recording capability.

DUE DATES AND DISASTER RECOVERY

- Unless otherwise stated, all assignments must be completed by midnight on the published due dates.
- Plan ahead and make local copies in Word or another format of all materials submitted or posted online in the event of systems failure.
- If you encounter specific hardware or network problems that prohibit you from completing an assignment on time, contact the instructors immediately via telephone or email.
- If you experience recurrent technical problems that prohibit you from completing multiple assignments, you may be asked to re-enroll in the course at a future date.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- Worcester State University's helpdesk (<http://www.worcester.edu/InformationTechnologies/default.aspx> or 508-929-8856) is the primary point of contact for problems with WSU network credentials or Blackboard problems.
- All other problems should be directed to the instructors unless otherwise indicated.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Your performance in this course will be graded primarily on the basis of your completion of an online teaching portfolio, which will have as its central theme an introductory course in your discipline that you currently teach or may someday teach. During the course, you must complete four major assignments, all of which will be included in your portfolio. You are expected to submit each of the assignments by the posted due dates; the instructors will return them with comments and a grade. Late work will be accepted only with prior approval of the instructor grading that assignment. As you assemble your portfolio, you may wish to revise assignments based on the feedback you were given. Revised assignments will be re-graded and the second grade will replace the first for that assignment.

Grade allocation is as follows. Please note that portfolio components are graded separately, with an additional grade for portfolio assembly. For details about each item, see the separate Assignments document (posted on the course website under Course Information).

Narrative philosophy of teaching statement (included in portfolio)	20%
Syllabus (included in portfolio)	15%
Instructional materials (included in portfolio)	15%
Video critique project (video only is included in portfolio)	20%
Portfolio assembly	10%
Course website construction	10%
Online participation	10%

Assignments will be graded with number grades. Your final course grade will be determined as follows:

The grading system for graduate studies at WSU employs the letter grades A (94-100), A- (90-93), B+ (87-89), B (84-86), B-(80-83), C+(77-79), C (74-76), C- (70-73), U (below 70, unsatisfactory work, no credit awarded), W (withdrawn), and I (incomplete). We will round up between whole numbers, and we reserve the right to lower these grade cutoffs, but we will not raise them.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

There are no tests in this course, only take-home assignments. You are encouraged, and even required, to complete some assignments collaboratively. Thus, many of the traditional concerns about academic honesty are not relevant here. However, the collaborative nature of the work in this course does require that clear guidelines about collaboration be set.

When an assignment is done individually, you may consult any people you wish during the thinking and planning phases of the assignment. At the point at which you begin to write, your work is expected to be your own.

When an assignment is done collaboratively, all group members are expected to contribute approximately equally to the planning, execution, and reporting of the work. The inclusion of your name on a piece of submitted work is interpreted as your certification that you did your fair share of the group work. (This is generally not an adequate safeguard against "freeloading" in an undergraduate course, but in a course of this nature, it is usually sufficient.)

When making use of external sources such as books, published papers, web resources, etc., you are expected to cite sources of ideas and information that are not your own, and to enclose in quotation marks and properly attribute any material that you take verbatim from other sources. Such quotations should generally be brief, a few sentences at most.

Consult Worcester State University's Academic Honesty Policy at:

http://worchester.edu/Academics/Shared%20Documents/academicpoliciesprocedures.aspx?PageView=Shared#academ_honesty for additional details and for penalties and procedures in case of violations.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you believe that you may need accommodations in this course, and if you have not already done so, please contact the Disabilities Services office at 508-929-8733 or go to the Disabilities Services office on the WSU campus in the Student Center Building, Room 206.

Also, consult Disability Services information at WSU:

<http://www.worcester.edu/CampusLife/Shared%20Documents/StuServ/DisabilityServices.aspx>

If you would like to discuss how your accommodations will be implemented during this course or if you would like to share information unrelated to accommodations, please make an appointment to talk with the instructor as soon as possible.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Check Blackboard course website numbered weekly blocks for details about readings, activities, and discussion board postings. Details about major Assignments Due are in the Assignments document in the Course Information section of the course website.

Week	Topic	Assignments Due
Week One Wed 9/14 - Tue 9/20	Introduction Teaching Beliefs, Goals, and Actions Getting to Know Your Students Misconceptions that Interfere with Learning / How Students Learn	Postings to discussion board as per weekly assignment
Week Two Wed 9/21 - Tue 9/27	Developing Learning Objectives Evaluating Learning Objectives Writing your Narrative Philosophy of Teaching Statement	Postings to discussion board as per weekly assignment
Week Three Wed 9/28 - Tue 10/4	Learning Styles Lecturing	Narrative (draft) due Mon 10/3. Postings to discussion board as per weekly assignment
Week Four Wed 10/5 - Tue 10/11	Teaching with Group Projects Teaching with Writing Teaching with Discussion	Video recording due Mon 10/10 Postings to discussion board as per weekly assignment
Week Five Wed 10/12 - Tue 10/18	Classroom Management Classroom Assessment	Instructional materials due Mon 10/17 Postings to discussion board as per weekly assignment
Week Six Wed 10/19 - Tue 10/25	Grading with Rubrics Syllabus Construction	Video project due Mon 10/24 Postings to discussion board as per weekly assignment
Week Seven Wed 10/26 - Tue 11/1	Building a Course Website Student Ratings of Instruction	Syllabus due Mon 10/31 Postings to discussion board as per weekly assignment
Post Week Seven Wed 11/2 - Mon 11/14		Course website project due Mon 11/7
End of Course		Portfolio (including final narrative and resubmitted video, syllabus, or instructional materials, if applicable) due Mon 11/14