EDU 223
TEACHING IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL
Fall 2010

Instructor: Mrs. Mary Podlesny
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Office: Wheeler 212  office hours  T: 9:00:00  R: 3:00-4:00
Phone: 715-682-1814  By appointment anytime I am not in class.
1-877-861-6280 (home- toll free)

Class: Tuesdays & Thursdays
October 26 – December 17
1:00 – 2:50
Wheeler Room 211

Required Textbook

References


George, Paul, Stevenson, Chris, Thomason, Julia, Beane, James The Middle School and Beyond ASCD 1992 (ISBN 0-87120-190-9)


Raebeck, Barry Transforming Middle Schools: A Guide to Whole-School Change


Wolf, Anthony E.  Get Out of My Life, but first could you drive me and Cheryl to the mall?  Noonday Press 1991

Description:  This course is designed to explore the many facets of teaching at the middle level. The students will work toward an understanding of adolescents, examine the elements of middle level concepts and research current literature. Specific topics include motivating middle level learners, advisor/advisee programs, block scheduling, classroom management strategies, exploration courses, transition programs, parent-teacher conferences, interdisciplinary teams and middle level philosophy.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- work toward an understanding of adolescents
- reflect on personal junior high/middle school experiences
- examine the elements of the middle level concept and how these will relate to their personalities and teaching style
- participate in dialogues with practicing middle level teachers/students
- participate in group/partner discussions
- include strategies that address student diversity in class discussion and prepared written work
- research current literature
- identify strategies to raise academic achievement specific to middle level

Attendance
Attend all classes, complete required readings assigned and participate in class activities. BE PREPARED daily for discussions and quizzes. Class participation includes being a good listener. Be on time.

Accommodations
If you are in need of academic or medical accommodations contact the Disabilities Coordinator, at 682-1340 or Ponzio Room 206 during the First two class sessions.
E-Mail – Be sure to check your e-mail daily. We will correspond through Northland accounts only.

Recordings
Any form of video and/or audio recordings of any part of this class or its content is prohibited unless approved by the instructor in advance.

Course Ethics and Academic Honesty
Cheating in any fashion will not be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to plagiarizing another’s words, work, or ideas on assignments, content, or activities. Such activity will result in failure of the assignment. While you are encouraged to work and study together, be sure the work you submit is your own. When using information from others be sure to identify your sources.

- Under Northland College policy, an incomplete grade will be given ONLY under extreme circumstances beyond your control, such as a major illness. An incomplete grade will be given ONLY if you have successfully completed the entire course except for the final exam. If the final exam is not completed by the incomplete deadline a grade of zero will be entered and the final grade will be calculated based on the points completed.

- I am available after class and during morning office hours and would be happy to meet you at other times. Feel free to call me at home at any time or send an e-mail to mpodlesny@northland.edu.

- Bring your folder and calendars to class daily. Be prepared to actively participate in daily discussions and expect a quiz at any time.

- A missed exam must be made up before or on the day of the next class session, but not during class time. Quizzes cannot be made up.

- You may request an edit of any assignment submitted to be at least one week prior to the due date. No resubmissions will be accepted after the due date as it is in your best interest to receive help prior to the due date in order to avoid overloading your assignment schedule.

- Do not hesitate to ask for clarification of directions or further explanation of concepts and assignments. Your folder contains a great deal of information; be sure to refer to it for resources.

- Any late submissions of written work will lose five points for each calendar day it is late. Remember grammar and spelling always count.

- Gentlemen – thank you for not wearing your hats in class.
• Total points for the course depend on the number of quizzes, written assignments and examinations.

• Quiz points are very important so read all assigned pages.

• AttA – indicates according to the author. You will be expected to respond specifically to authors’ articles.

• One session will be held at the Ashland Middle School during a team’s prep time—usually around noon. The date and time will be announced as soon as possible.

• Participation in class discussions is an essential part of this course. It includes being a good listener and allowing each class member opportunities to speak.

ASSIGNMENTS and DUE DATES
You will be asked to read several (depending on time) articles in any area regarding middle level education and participate in a round table discussion reviewing your article. This is for oral presentation only you need not prepare anything written.

There will be a mid-term and a final examination (paper).

DUE DATES
Mid-term exam – Around November 11
Final Project Due – December 9

The following points scale will be used to determine the final grade.
93-100 A
90-92 A-
87-89 B+
84-86 B
80-83 B-
77-79 C+
73-76 C
70-72 C-
67-69 D+

The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and calendar as necessary.