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C&I 200.01: Exploring Teaching through Field Experience

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Blank, Lisa M., "C&I 200.01: Exploring Teaching through Field Experience" (2007). *Syllabi*. 11033.
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University of Montana
C & I 200: Exploring Teaching through Field Experience
Fall 2007

Instructor: Prof. Lisa M. Blank	Email: lisa.blank@mso.umt.edu
Office: 107	Phone: 243-5304
Office Hours: As posted or by appt.	Class Hours: Mondays: 2:10 – 3:00

Education: Comes from the Latin root *e-ducere*, meaning to “lead forth” or to “draw out.”

Purpose and Goals:

This course introduces you to our teacher education program and to the teaching profession in general. As a Teaching Assistant (TA) to a Missoula-area teacher, you will have the opportunity to observe the operation of a school and the students and teachers who work together there. This field experience also provides an opportunity for you to clarify your commitment to becoming a teacher. At the conclusion of the course, you should have:

- ❖ Completed a successful 30-hour field experience during which you will serve as a TA to a classroom teacher and be evaluated by that teacher;
- ❖ Developed your observation and analysis skills;
- ❖ Begun your professional development portfolio, to be completed during the student teaching semester; and
- ❖ Determined your aptitude for and interest in becoming a K-12 teacher.

Evaluation:

C&I 200 is a credit/no credit course. You will receive credit for the course if you:

- 1) Receive satisfactory evaluation of your 30 hours as a TA by the classroom teacher to whom you are assigned. The teacher must rate your performance as “competent” or above in seven of the nine performance-based outcomes.
- 2) Complete all class readings and receive satisfactory evaluation of participation in six scheduled seminars on campus. **Absence from more than 1 seminar results in a “no credit” grade.**
- 3) Receive satisfactory evaluation of completion of four written observation assignments.
- 4) Hand in all field requirement materials: Supervising Teacher Final Evaluation, Hours (with teacher’s signature), Student Dispositions Self- Assessment, Reflection Paper; and Three Professional Development Goals after completing C&I 200 Field Experience.

Schedule:

- ❖ Aug. 27 The Field Experience
 - Orientation/expectations of a teaching assistant and central questions that frame the C&I 200 Field Experience
 - Reading Assignments:
 - Field Experience Informational Packet
 - “The Silenced Dialogue: Power and Pedagogy in Educating Other People’s Children”

- ❖ Sept. 10 Characteristics of a Good Teacher
 - Observation and reflection process for the Field Experience
 - Assignments:
 - Be prepared to discuss, “The Silenced Dialogue: Power and Pedagogy in Educating Other People’s Children”
 - Delpit suggests that is “. . . impossible to create a model for the good teacher without taking issues of culture and community context into account.” How does your conception of the “good teacher” compare to Delpit’s description? In what ways does Delpit suggest students of color are marginalized in classrooms? **Bring at least one question you have from the reading to explore with the class.**
 - Reading Assignment: TBA

- ❖ Sept. 17 Classroom Climate
 - Examine “Twenty-nine Questions”
 - Observation Assignment One: This assignment helps you get to know the school you have been assigned and the community in which that school is located.
 - Observation Assignment Two: Focuses on helping you observe the teaching style and strategies utilized by your teacher.
 - Reading Assignment:
 - “How We Learn.”

- ❖ Oct. 15 Curriculum and Instructional Strategies
 - **DUE: Observation Assignments One and Two.** Be prepared to share and discuss your work.
 - **Be prepared to discuss “How We Learn.”**
 - Willingham argues that to “engage an intelligence” the teacher must teach using the content’s best modality. What, in your mind, is your content’s best modality and what are your reasons for this conclusion? For those of you who are elementary majors, choose a content area to consider for this question.
 - Observation Assignment Three: Asks you to evaluate student behavior, summarize observational data, and draw three conclusions about teaching and learning regarding this data.
 - Observation Assignment Four: Classroom transitions and management strategies.
 - Reading Assignment: TBA

- ❖ Nov.19 Classroom Management
 - **DUE: Observation Assignments Three and Four.**
 - Be prepared to share three examples of successful classroom management strategies that you have observed and one management concern that you have.

- ❖ Dec. 3 Final Class Discussion
 - Come prepared to articulate three professional goals for the subsequent field experience.

- ❖ Dec. 10 Finals Week Meeting
 - All final written reflections and C&I 200 Field Experience evaluation/performance documents (including professional development goals for next field experience) are due.

Please obtain a copy of the **UM Teacher Education Policy Handbook**, available in the UC Bookstore or online.

Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm.page/1321>.