

Practicum: EDUC 561

HANDBOOK
(Syllabus)

Elsie T. Neely
neely@cua.edu
(202)319-5819
204 O'Boyle Hall

Course Description:

Guided experience in observing and teaching in a classroom.

Practicum Seminar Schedule:

Wednesdays 1:35 PM-2:50 PM

Practicum Days (Tuesday & Thursday)

You must report to your assigned school one entire day on Tuesday, and one half day. Practicum students' starting time is based on the time teachers report to work.

- * If the class is held once a week:
 - * 1 unexcused absence without penalty
 - * 2nd absence - 10% taken off grade
 - * Each additional class is an additional 10% off
 - * Exceptions are at the discretion of the faculty member

- * If the class is held twice a week:
 - * 2 unexcused absences without penalty
 - * 3rd absence - 5% taken off grade
 - * Each additional class is an additional 5% off
 - * Exceptions are at the discretion of the faculty member

Requirements:

- Weekly attendance and participation in seminar and practicum
- Complete an assignment for each seminar meeting on time, and be prepared to take part in the classroom discussions
- Arrange to get fingerprinted and have a background check before reporting to a school
- Inform your cooperating teacher (CT) of all the assignments you have for practicum and other classes on your first day
- Get the CT's phone info so that you can contact her if you will be absent or late

Practicum Seminar Schedule

- 1/16/08 Class I – Discuss of the formation of 5 goals and concerns regarding the field experience. The goals should reflect the Conceptual Framework; Focus question #1
- 1/23/08 Seminar – Discuss first experiences in the classroom, and the school at large
- 1/30/08 Conversations about your expectations of the Cooperating Teacher, curriculum issues, and field experiences; Focus Question #2
- 2/6/08 Select a meaningful dilemma, discuss field experiences
- 2/13/08 Discussion about the student population, and field experiences
Focus Question #3
- 2/20/08 First paper due – Decide on five goals to achieve in the classroom, compare both practicum experiences using the Conceptual Framework.
Discuss observation of one lesson and how it reflected the learning environment, and field experiences
- 2/27/08 Practicum mid-term evaluations are due, discussion about observations of the cooperating teacher's positive use and application of Classroom Structures and how it impacts learning
- 3/12/07 Discussion on classroom experience, focusing on strategies or techniques you have attempted to implement
- 3/19/08 Meaningful Dilemma – report on the status
- 3/26/08 Discussion to focus on what strategies, or techniques the cooperating teacher might be adapting that you introduced
- 4/02/08 Discussion on examples of differentiation you and the cooperating teacher use in the classroom
- 4/09/08 Discussion on field experiences, and the use of collaboration as a strategy to improve teaching skills
- 4/16/08 Discussion on instructional strategies that are effective, to include an analysis of why they are working **Final Paper Due (Hand In)**
- 4/23/08 Final seminar class – **turn in all time sheets and final evaluations**

Assignments:

Students must create an electronic portfolio by the end of the semester. It entails 4 categories.

1. Observation Paper
2. Lesson Plan
3. Mini Action Paper
4. Tutoring Sample

All four components will come from the various classes you have taken, or will be taking this semester. The grade will be based on creating a basic electronic portfolio that I will be able to assess. You will not be graded on the specific papers or documents. A class will be devoted to teaching you how to accomplish this task.

GOALS FOR PRACTICUM STUDENTS

A. Provide students with a coherent experience that will allow them to see the curriculum in action, the way student learning is most effectively developed in the classroom.

B. Give students an opportunity to design and carry out a sequence of instructions.

C. Give students an opportunity to learn instructional techniques from cooperating teachers and experiment with practices that are based on courses they have taken.