



## **Professional Development Institute**

### **Flex Course Syllabus**

## **Best Practices for a Successful Primary Classroom (K-3)**

**PDI Course Number: 15T02**

**UCSD Course Number: EDUC41570**

If you would like information about receiving post-baccalaureate (graduate) credit for completing this course, [please click here](#).

### **Course Timeline**

Participants have one year to complete the course. Participants must spend a minimum of three weeks in this course.

### **Course Description**

Do you need help keeping your young students engaged and focused? This course is designed for primary teachers who are in need of learning best practices for creating and managing a successful primary classroom. This course covers strategies for implementing grade level standards, while managing time so that all content is covered. Behavioral issues, including problems with bullying, as well as overall classroom management techniques are presented in order to help teachers manage their classrooms more successfully so they have time for what is most important—meeting the needs of their students. Teachers will learn how to maximize the resources they have available to them as well as find innovative ways to gain more resources at little-to-no cost. This course also provides successful strategies for gaining students' attention and interest, and truly engaging them in lessons so that they are motivated to learn. Special attention is given to differentiation of instruction so that the needs of all students, including English language learners and students with special needs, can effectively be met. Strategies are also provided for effectively communicating with parents and families, including parents who can be difficult. By the end of this course, teachers will feel more confident in successfully managing a primary grade classroom.

## **Educational Outcomes**

1. Teachers will have a better understanding of the Common Core State Standards and learn innovative ways to ensure all content is covered as set forth in the Standards.
2. Teachers will learn how to help students with the transition to the rigorous Standards.
3. Teachers will learn how to manage their time, organize priorities, and ensure deadlines are met.
4. Teachers will learn how to handle all types of behavioral issues and implement an effective plan for managing the classroom.
5. Teachers will learn how to establish a bully-free classroom.
6. Teachers will understand how planning and being proactive will help them use their time more effectively and get the most out of their time with students.
7. Teachers will learn exciting ways to gain students' participation and interest in lessons.
8. Teachers will learn new ways to develop more engaging lessons.
9. Teachers will understand how to analyze classroom and student needs and establish lesson plans accordingly.
10. Teachers will learn how to use resources, activities, and lesson plans that integrate the use of technology.
11. Teachers will learn how to make the most out of the resources they currently have, and how to find or create resources that cost little to nothing.
12. Teachers will learn how to understand the needs of each individual student and how they can best serve students based on the information they have collected.
13. Teachers will learn how to differentiate instruction in order to effectively teach students of all levels and abilities.
14. Teachers will gain strategies for mainstreaming English language learners and students with special needs.
15. Teachers will learn how to determine whether or not their students have mastered the concepts being taught.
16. Teachers will learn more about the Common Core Assessments and how to best prepare students for high-stakes testing.
17. Teachers will learn how to effectively communicate with parents and encourage their involvement in the classroom and their child's learning.

## **Instructional Media**

- Online Discussions
- Online Engagement
- Online Collaboration
- Instructor Feedback
- Instructor Interaction
- Online Resources and Websites
- Supplemental Instructional Materials
- Printable Classroom Resources

## Evaluation

- Test #1 (5% of final grade)
- Test #2 (5% of final grade)
- Test #3 (5% of final grade)
- Test #4 (5% of final grade)
- Test #5 (5% of final grade)
- Autobiography and Goals for the Course (10% of final grade)
- Article/Video Reflection (15% of final grade)
- Course Collaboration/Share Ideas with the Class (10% of final grade)
- Cumulative Assignment/Project: Develop a Plan to Use Strategies from the Course to Improve the Classroom or Classroom Practices (20% of final grade)
- Culminating Practicum (20% of final grade)

## Topical Outline

### Unit One

- The Most Common Challenges in a Primary Classroom
- The Perfect Primary Classroom
- Recognizing the Needs of Students
- **Assignment #1**  
*Write an autobiography including information about yourself, your grade level and what you specifically hope to learn about effective practices for teaching grades K-3. Your autobiography should be a minimum of three paragraphs.*
- **Test #1**

### Unit Two

- The Teacher's Role in a Successful Primary Classroom
- The Best Methods for Managing Student Behavior
- Anti-Bullying Strategies for the Primary Classroom
- **Assignment #2**  
*As an educator, it is important to be aware of the research, studies, and professional work done in the field. In the course, you will find an article and video that are relevant to the specific course content. Read the article and then write an essay with your thoughts.*
- **Test #2**

### Unit Three

- Effective Time Management and Organizational Strategies

- Engaging and Motivating Every Student in Your Classroom
- Differentiating Instruction to Meet the Needs of All Students
- **Assignment # 3**

*Online Discussion Board Participation/Engagement: Please post a tip, strategy, or idea that specifically relates to effective strategies and practices for grades kindergarten through third grade and will make a difference to other teachers in their own classrooms. Your assignment should be a minimum of three paragraphs and detailed enough for another teacher to easily follow. This is a great opportunity to share and collaborate with other teachers at your grade level around the country. Take time to review and respond to other postings that are relevant to your classroom population in order to gain effective ideas to use immediately in your classroom.*

- **Test #3**

## Unit Four

- Successfully Mainstreaming English Language Learners and Students with Special Needs into Your Classroom
- Transitioning to the Rigorous Common Core State Standards with Confidence
- Understanding and Preparing Students for the Common Core Assessments
- **Test #4**

## Unit Five

- Making the Most of Classroom or School Technology
- Addressing a Lack of Classroom Resources
- Dealing with Difficult People and Parents
- **Test #5**

## Unit Six

- Best Practices for Dealing and Communicating with Parents
- The Habits of Highly Successful Teachers
- Resources for the Successful Primary Classroom
- **Assignment #4**

*Using at least two of the strategies provided in the course, begin by writing about your current classroom, or what your classroom (or a classroom you have been in) was like in the past, noting any specific challenges you had. After learning many valuable strategies, you should be able to answer two of the questions below with a minimum two-paragraph response each to explain how you will use the strategies to make changes to your classroom or classroom practices. Your final assignment should include a total of five paragraphs once complete. Keep in mind that this assignment is a cumulative project and therefore, you are expected to demonstrate the knowledge you gained from the course and your ability to apply what you have learned in a practical setting.*

- **Assignment #5**

*The culminating practicum is a three-step process. (1) In the first assignment, you were asked what goals you had and what you hoped to learn from the course. Think back to your original goals for this course. Write a minimum two-paragraph reflection specifically describing how what you learned can be used to help you reach those goal(s). (2) Next, write a minimum three-paragraph plan that specifically describes the ways in which you intend to implement a particular strategy you learned in this course into your own teaching situation. (3) Last, write a minimum two-paragraph reflection describing a student you have or have had in the past. Then, discuss how the strategies you learned in this course will specifically benefit that student as you put your plan into action.*

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