



Professional Development Institute

Flex Course Syllabus

Content Area Multi-Sensory Teaching for Students with Special Needs (K-5)

PDI Course Number: 113T02

UCSD Course Number: EDUC40269

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

As your classroom becomes more diverse with each passing year, are you finding it more difficult to meet the needs of your students, especially those with learning disabilities? Perhaps you are concerned because your diverse students just don't seem to be "getting it," no matter what you try. This online course is designed for K-5 teachers who wish to explore strategies and initiatives for incorporating a variety of multi-sensory strategies into their teaching repertoire in an effort to help those students with special learning needs. Teachers will be introduced to the basic outline of multi-sensory teaching as well as its benefits in the classroom for students with special needs. Then, teachers will learn a variety of strategies to "meet students where they are" in terms of their visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and tactile learning preferences in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. Teachers will also learn how to integrate the arts in multiple ways during reading, writing, and math in order to support these learning preferences. By the end of this course, teachers will feel more confident implementing a variety of multi-sensory teaching techniques (including the incorporation of the arts) into their classrooms so that their most at-risk students can find success.

Educational Outcomes

1. Teachers will be introduced to multi-sensory learning.
2. Teachers will learn about Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences.
3. Teachers will be able to distinguish between the various learning styles (visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and tactile).
4. Teachers will learn about the benefits of multi-sensory teaching and how it relates to student engagement.
5. Teachers will learn what it means to include the arts in teaching, including its benefits and the role that it plays in current legislation.
6. Teachers will understand how special education students benefit from a multi-sensory approach to teaching.
7. Teachers will learn specific strategies for helping their visual learners with reading such as picture phonics, highlighting, and mental imagery.
8. Teachers will learn specific strategies for helping their visual learners with writing such as graphic organizers, color coding, anchor charts, and photographs.
9. Teachers will learn specific strategies for helping their visual learners with math such as use of pictures, finger counting, number lines, flashcards, and anchor charts.
10. Teachers will learn specific strategies for helping their auditory learners with reading such as whisper phonics, choral reading, retellings, and audiobooks.
11. Teachers will learn specific strategies for helping their auditory learners with writing such as oral presentations, speech to text apps, text to speech apps, and music/rhythm.
12. Teachers will learn specific strategies for helping their auditory learners with math such as poems and chants, flashcards, partner talk, and mnemonics.
13. Teachers will learn specific strategies for helping their kinesthetic learners with reading such as change of location, movement, ball bounce and an exercise with sight words game.
14. Teachers will learn specific strategies for helping their kinesthetic learners with writing such as "active" writing, sign language, and special manipulatives.
15. Teachers will learn specific strategies for helping their kinesthetic learners with math such as sensory paths, brain breaks, physical games, and drama math.
16. Teachers will learn specific strategies for helping their tactile learners with reading such as modeling clay, wikki stix, word rubbings, sensory bins, and letter tiles.
17. Teachers will learn specific strategies for helping their tactile learners with writing such as textures, raised-line paper, encoding, and weighted pencils.
18. Teachers will learn specific strategies for helping their tactile learners with math such as number lines, place value blocks, number rubbings, snap cubes, and geoboards.
19. Teachers will learn several different strategies for integrating the arts during reading such as tableau, pantomime, quick sketch, visual art, and music.
20. Teachers will learn several different strategies for integrating the arts during writing such as tableau, pantomime, quick sketch, visual art, and music.
21. Teachers will learn several different strategies for integrating the arts during math such as tableau, pantomime, quick sketch, visual art, and music.

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)
- Design Three Lesson Plans (20% of final grade)
- Culminating Practicum (20% of final grade)

Topical Outline

Unit One

- Introduction to Multi-Sensory Learning
- The Benefits of Multi-Sensory Learning
- Integrating the Arts
- **Assignment #1**
Write an autobiography including information about yourself, your grade level and what you specifically hope to learn about using a multi-sensory teaching approach in order to include all students in your classroom. Your autobiography should be a minimum of three paragraphs.
- **Test #1**

Unit Two

- Visual Strategies for Reading
- Visual Strategies for Writing

- Visual Strategies for Math
- **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

- Auditory Strategies for Reading
- Auditory Strategies for Writing
- Auditory Strategies for Math
- **Assignment #3**
Online Discussion Board Participation/Engagement: Please post a tip, strategy, or idea that specifically relates to effectively implementing multi-sensory teaching strategies 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

- Kinesthetic Strategies for Reading
- Kinesthetic Strategies for Writing
- Kinesthetic Strategies for Math
- **Test #4**

Unit Five

- Tactile Strategies for Reading
- Tactile Strategies for Writing
- Tactile Strategies for Math
- **Test #5**

Unit Six

- Integrating the Arts during Reading
- Integrating the Arts during Writing
- Integrating the Arts during Math
- **Assignment #4**

Create a lesson plan for each of the three content areas which were presented throughout the course (reading, writing, and mathematics). Each of the three plans needs to include at least one multi-sensory learning activity that is specifically designed to address one of the learning styles that was discussed in the course (visual, auditory, kinesthetic, or tactile). In addition, each lesson plan must include an assessment piece, so that the teacher has some way of determining whether or not his/her students were able to successfully understand the topic through its respective multi-sensory activity.

- **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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