



Professional Development Institute

Flex Course Syllabus

ELL Strategies for Mainstreamed Students (6-12)

PDI Course Number: 118T02

UCSD Course Number: EDUC40275

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 the student population becomes increasingly diverse, do you find yourself wondering how to best help the influx of English language learners in your own classroom? English language learners, also known as ELLs, are the fastest growing group of students over the past two decades, and while there are plenty of programs and resources available to them in the elementary grades, the fact is that these resources tend to dwindle at the middle and high school levels. This online course is designed for teachers in grades 6-12 who wish to explore how to better help these students succeed academically, while simultaneously supporting their cultural heritage as well as their social and emotional well-being. Teachers will learn specific strategies to best support ELLs on their path to the acquisition of a new language. Teachers will take a deep dive into how culture affects the acquisition of a new language, and they will learn a variety of culturally responsive teaching strategies to support their English language learners. This course examines best practices for supporting and scaffolding ELLs in the areas of vocabulary, English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Teachers will learn how having a growth mindset favorably affects ELLs' forward progress with language acquisition, and they will be introduced to a number of different strategies to assess these learners, both formally and informally. By the end of this course, teachers will feel far more comfortable teaching their English language learners.

Educational Outcomes

1. Teachers will learn about the different classifications of English language learners and some common misconceptions which surround them.
2. Teachers will learn about the main theories which exist regarding the acquisition of an additional language.
3. Teachers will learn about the various stages of language acquisition which can be tied to the WIDA CAN Do Descriptors.
4. Teachers will learn the difference between BICS and CALP within the four language domains — listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
5. Teachers will be taken through all of the steps of the ELL identification process.
6. Teachers will take a deep dive into the sociocultural aspects of language, including the process of acculturation and social and school expectations.
7. Teachers will learn about the various types of ELL programs, including ELL pull-out programs, ELL class period programs, and sheltered English instruction.
8. Teachers will learn about the various types of bilingual programs, including dual language, transitional bilingual, and developmental bilingual programs.
9. Teachers will learn about newcomer programs and will learn how to successfully weave technology into them.
10. Teachers will learn how to structure their lessons for their English language learners according to the principles of Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol, or SIOP.
11. Teacher will be introduced to the basic principles of culturally responsive teaching, including how to incorporate its best practices into their mainstreamed classrooms.
12. Teachers will learn what WIDA CAN DO Descriptors are and how they can be used to better inform their teaching and grading practices for their English language learners.
13. Teachers will be introduced to several general strategies for working with English language learners, regardless of the grade level or content area being taught, broken down by beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels.
14. Teachers will understand the difference between first and second language acquisition, specifically what that means for them in their mainstreamed classrooms.
15. Teachers will understand the various challenges that ELLs face in ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies content courses, and they will learn specific strategies for helping their English language learners become successful in each content area.
16. Teachers will learn the basic principles of growth mindset and how it relates to the acquisition of a new language.
17. Teachers will learn how to incorporate growth mindset principles within their teaching practices in order to better support their English language learners.
18. Teachers will learn about the various formal assessments which are available so that they can better assess the progress of their English language learners.
19. Teachers will understand the role that informal assessments play in ELLs learning, as well as learn various strategies for incorporating informal assessment into their daily lessons.
20. Teachers will understand the role that home language and culture play in the acquisition of a new language, and will learn specific strategies for how to teach in such a diverse atmosphere.

21. Teachers will understand the challenges that ELL families face when trying to communicate with their child's school, including the significant role that culture plays in terms of establishing a collaborative school-family partnership.

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)
- Reflect on Your Current Practices and Design a Culturally Responsive Content-Area Lesson Plan (20% of final grade)
- Culminating Practicum (20% of final grade)

Topical Outline

Unit One

- ELL Student Profiles
- The Path to Learning a New Language
- Sociocultural Aspects of Language Acquisition
- **Assignment #1**
Write an autobiography including information about yourself, your grade level and what you specifically hope to learn about mainstreamed English language learners in the 6-12 classroom. Your autobiography should be a minimum of three paragraphs.
- **Test #1**

Unit Two

- ELL Teaching Models
- Types of ELL Instruction
- Incorporating Culturally Responsive Teaching Practices into the ELL 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

- WIDA CAN DO Descriptors
- General ELL Strategies
- Vocabulary Strategies

- **Assignment #3**

Online Discussion Board Participation/Engagement: Please post a tip, strategy, or idea that specifically relates to effectively supporting mainstreamed English language learners within the context of a 6-12 content-area classroom 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

- ELA Strategies
- Mathematics Strategies
- Science Strategies
- Social Studies Strategies
- **Test #4**

Unit Five

- Growth Mindset
- Formal Assessment of English Language Learners
- Informal Assessment of English Language Learners
- **Test #5**

Unit Six

- The Role of Home Language and Culture
- The Importance of Communication
- Embracing Families as Partners

- **Assignment #4**

***PART I:** For the first part of this assignment, reflect on the current classroom makeup from one of your classes. If you are not currently teaching, reflect on a class that you have had in the past which contained students that had linguistic as well as academic needs. Then, write a paragraph which details the linguistic and academic needs of these English language learners in your mainstreamed classroom. What are some specific obstacles they currently face? What can you do as their teacher to address these specific needs while holding them accountable to the same content standards as your native English speakers? This paragraph should be written in no less than five detailed sentences and should focus on the linguistic and academic needs of one of your current or former classes.*

***PART II:** Taking into account the specific challenges delineated in Part I of this assignment, design two lesson plans that are geared toward specifically helping those ELLs who are mainstreamed into your class. Your lessons should be very detailed and should focus on the types of supports and scaffolds that can be implemented during the lessons in order to help English language learners in your class (as described in Part I) better understand the subject and topic under study. Your plan should also take into account all of the specific challenges that ELLs face in your chosen content area. Your lesson plans should be detailed enough so that another teacher could immediately use them in his/her classroom.*

- **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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