

Course Syllabus

Course: EDZU 9505 The Cooperative Classroom

Credit Hours: 3.0 credits / 45 hours

Instructor: Amy Adkins

Course Description

Would you like to see improved academic achievement, improved behavior and attendance, and increased self-confidence among the students in your classroom? If so, then this is the course for you. This course will focus on understanding and integrating cooperative learning strategies and techniques into our classrooms. Teachers will learn how to develop and implement lesson plans/activities, while differentiating instruction through use of cooperative learning techniques. By the end of this course participants will have a variety of lesson plans and activities that they can incorporate into their classroom.

Teachers enrolled in this course will...

To Know

1. a variety of different structures and techniques for using cooperative learning in the classroom.
2. the essential elements of cooperative learning in the classroom.
3. common mistakes in and misperceptions about using cooperative learning activities.

To Understand

1. the teacher's role in structuring cooperative learning.
2. how cooperative learning techniques can promote academic success for students.
3. understand how cooperative learning can help students develop positive interpersonal and intrapersonal skills.

and Be Able To

1. assess cooperative learning activities.
2. incorporate cooperative learning strategies into their specific settings.
3. plan lessons that promote student achievement through interaction and positive interdependence.

Course Outline

Topic 1: Understanding Cooperative Learning

- Why use cooperative learning.
- Elements of cooperative learning.
- Class activities that use cooperative learning.
- A Guide to Cooperative Learning.
 1. Benefits to students.
 2. Benefits to teachers.

Topic 2: Cooperative Learning Structures and Techniques

- Essential elements of cooperative learning
 1. Students Learning outcome objectives
 2. Groups
 3. Individual accountability
- Cooperative Learning Structures and Techniques
 1. Focus on the thirteen learning structures and techniques.

Topic 3: Cooperative Learning and Assessment

- How to use assessment strategies.
 1. Responsibilities that students have in cooperative learning settings.
 2. Different levels of assessment and evaluation.
 3. Principles of assessing and reporting.
- Strategies for help students build team skills.
 1. Directly teaching cooperative skills.
 2. Assigning roles with gambits.
 3. Using monitoring and reinforcement.
 4. Reflection or group processing.

Topic 4: Teacher's Role in Cooperative Learning

- Structuring Cooperative Interaction
 1. Designing an effective cooperative learning environment and lesson
 2. Explain the task and cooperative goal structure to the students.
 3. Effectively monitor/manage the groups as they work.
- What Cooperative learning is NOT.
- Ten Frequently Asked Questions by Teachers
- Common mistakes in effectively using cooperative learning.

Methods of Instruction

Teachers enrolled in this course will evaluate primary and secondary sources in order to be able to effectively implement cooperative learning into their teaching environment. They will communicate with other teachers around the state and country to share success stories and gain insights into best practices in instruction. They will complete assignments that assess their understanding of cooperative learning and be challenged to apply their learning immediately to their own classrooms, schools, districts and communities.

Students will connect with each other throughout the course within forums and various other types of online feedback options built into each class.

Methods of Assessment

In order to earn an A in class, a student must complete all of the assigned readings and assignments, participate in all discussion forums, and complete all of the practicum tasks. This includes but is not limited to creating a unit of instruction that incorporates five cooperative learning activities/lesson. All lessons must identify the cooperative learning structures/techniques and how they will be implemented and assessed. Students will also have to identify their role in each activity.

In order to earn a B in class, a student must complete all of the assigned readings and assignments, participate in all discussion forums, and create a unit of instruction incorporating three of the above lessons.

Instructors are online each day of the course and correspond with students through the course itself, feedback on assignments, e-mail, and by phone.

Time Validation

Assignment	Time (in hours)
Students will explore and analyze the elements of cooperative learning.	1.5
Students will integrate cooperative learning elements into class activities.	2.0
Students will read and respond to the benefit of cooperative learning on students.	1.5
Students will read and respond to the benefit of cooperative learning on teachers.	1.5
Students will effectively integrate student learning outcomes into cooperative learning activities.	2.0
Students will be able to group students effectively for cooperative activities.	2.0
Students will understand the importance of individual accountability in cooperative learning activities and how to transpose that to students.	2.0
Students will explore and analyze the 13 cooperative learning structures and techniques.	3.0
Students will integrate the cooperative learning structures and techniques into daily class activities and lessons.	3.0
Students will analyze and examine effective assessment strategies for cooperative	2.0

activities.	
Students will create assessment tools to effectively assess cooperative learning activities in their classroom.	3.0
Students will read and respond to how to effectively instill team build skills in students.	2.0
Students will analyze effective monitoring and reinforcing skills during cooperative learning activities.	2.0
Students will read and respond to hoe to effectively manage a cooperative activity.	1.5
Students will analyze how to structure their environment for cooperative interaction.	2.5
Students will design a classroom that effectively promotes cooperative interaction.	3.0
Student will analyze the common mistakes in effectively using cooperative learning and apply to their experienced.	2.0
Student will analyze the common mistakes in effectively using cooperative learning and apply to their experienced.	1.5
Students will create a unit of study that incorporates cooperative activities and all elements of cooperative learning are addressed.	5.0
Total Time	45.00
