

Educ 657 - Exceptionality, Diversity, and Difference, 3 credits  
Instructor: Dr. Heather Kvilvang  
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Catalog Description: This course is a study of the exceptionality, diversity and difference that exists in the P-12 classrooms. Strategies for developing appropriate learning environments, intervention strategies and teaching styles as related to difference will be explored. Socio-economic status, gender, and ethnicity will be explored as they relate to effective teaching. Learning styles and differences will be examined and instructional modifications and alternative delivery systems will be studied. This course will also address professional networking and collaboration in order to enhance the learning experiences of all students.

Required Text: *Multicultural Education in a Pluralistic Society* by Donna M. Gollnick and Philip C. Chinn.

Learning Activities:

1. Required reading
2. Online interaction on Discussion Board
3. Video insights
4. Chapter Projects
5. Practicum Experience

Evaluation/Assessment:

1. 5 points per Discussion Board thread. The evaluation of your responses will be based on their completeness (At a minimum, a complete paragraph would be an appropriate response for a 5 point question), use of masters level writing, and content that reflects an understanding of the topic. Each person is required to respond to the video insight for the week and provide 2 responses to other people for a total of 3 postings.
2. 10 points per week for chapter projects. The evaluation of your responses will be based on their completeness, use of master's level writing, and content that reflects an understanding of the topic. Completed assignments are attached to the appropriate Assignment Folder in Blackboard.
3. 40 points for practicum experience in a diverse setting.
4. Grading: A grade of an "A" will be given to students who earn 100-94% or more of the total points. A grade of a "B" will be given to students who earn 93% to 87% of the total points. A grade of a "C" will be given to students who earn 86% to 80% of the total points. A grade of a "D" will be given to students who earn 79% to 73% of the total points.

Course Expectations:

1. Three hours of reading per week.
2. Three hours of writing per week.
3. One hour online work.
4. Ten hours of practicum experience.

Final Test Requirements:

The final for this course will be to complete the Diversity Practicum and turn in all necessary paperwork (proposal, teacher evaluation, and artifact) by finals week.

Course Policies:

1. Any students with disabilities or other special needs, which need special accommodations in this course, are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor as soon as possible.
2. All work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with VCSU 424 Academic Integrity Policy found on page 35 of the Student Handbook.
3. Late work will not be read, evaluated, or be worth any points. Please realize that Blackboard records the date and time of postings.

Instructor Commitment:

I will reply to emails within one school day. My office hours are Monday through Friday, 9-3. I may be physically out of the office occasionally visiting student teachers, but will still have access to email.

Standards Met:

1. Education Standards and Practice Board Standard 50081B: Advanced Study in Professional Education.
2. NBPTS Standards: Proposition 1: Teachers are Committed to Students and Their Learning, Proposition 3: Teachers are Responsible for Managing and Monitoring Student Learning, Proposition 4: Teachers Think Systematically about Their Practice and Learn from Experience, Proposition 5: Teachers are Members of Learning Communities.
3. Valley City State University Core Value 1 Effective use of Instructional Technologies (Cumulative Portfolio), Core Value 6 Diversity/Global Awareness (Reflection Papers), Core Value 7 Conceptual Framework (Lesson Plans), and Core Value 8 Field Experience (Diverse Practicum).