Course Syllabus

Communication Studies 6050

Seminar on Teaching Communication

Wednesdays: 4:30-7:00, Main 207

General Information

Instructor: Matthew Sanders
Office: Main 333
Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30-4:30 or by appointment
Phone: 435-797-8409
Email: matt.sanders@usu.edu

Assigned Readings

- Additional course readings (scholarly articles and book chapters) are available to you on Canvas.

Course Description
The purpose of this course is to help graduate students learn how to effectively teach college level communication studies courses. Specific focus will be placed on how to build constructive teacher-student relationships, create a learning environment that allows students to achieve learning objectives, and run effective learning activities and discussions in the classroom. All of these teaching practices will also be applied to general training and development. Overall, this course will prepare graduate students to be the instructor of record for specific freshman or sophomore level courses.

**Course Objectives**

1. Explore various theories and perspectives of pedagogy.
2. Develop a philosophy and perspective of college-level teaching and learning.
3. Learn how to teach communication concepts through discussion and activities.
4. Understand how to develop an entire course from start to finish.

**Course Requirements**

This course requires five distinct types of assignments, as listed below. Specific guidelines for each will be provided during the semester.

1. **Position Papers** (40 percent of total grade). During the course of the semester, you will write five position papers that both analyze the concepts from multiple readings and make a clear argument for why concepts, practices, or theories are more or less effective. These papers will be presented and defended in class.
2. **Philosophy of Teaching and Learning** (10 percent of total grade): You will be assigned to write your own teaching and learning philosophy that will guide and inform your future teaching.
3. **Teaching Reflections** (10 percent of total grade). Each week you will write a two paragraph reflection on the teaching you are currently doing in the Public Speaking course. In these reflections you will write about your challenges and successes and how they relate to what you are learning in the class.
4. **Full Course Development** (40 percent of total grade). Your culminating semester project will be the preparation for an entire course that you will teach the following semester. This will include a syllabus, assignment descriptions, lesson plans, etc.

**Course Policies**

1. Attendance and Participation: Seminar courses only function well when everyone attends and actively participates in the discussion. You are expected to attend all class sessions, complete all readings, and participate in class discussions. If you are unable to attend a class, please let me know ahead of time.
2. Late work: No late work will be accepted, unless prior arrangements for extenuating circumstances have been made ahead of time. You are always welcome to turn in assignments early.

3. Academic Integrity: You will be expected to adhere to the USU's policy for academic integrity.
   See: [http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3140](http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3140) (Links to an external site.)

4. Disabilities: Accommodation for disabilities will be made, per USU’s policies.
   See: [http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3168%20](http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3168%20) (Links to an external site.)

5. Classroom Civility: Both students and the teacher will be expected to follow all guidelines for classroom civility.
   See: [http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3171](http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3171)