Communication Studies 6050  
Seminar on Teaching Communication  
Wednesdays: 4:30-7:00, Main 006

General Information

Instructor: Matthew Sanders  
Office: Main 202C  
Office Hours: Wednesday 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** (30 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 Activities** (15 percent of total grade): During the semester, you will develop lesson plans to teach (1) a short lecture, (2) lead a discussion, and (3) run an activity. Each activity will include a debrief with the teacher and classmates that includes feedback and suggestions for improvement.

4. **Teaching Observations** (15 percent of total grade). You will be required to observe 3 different teachers in the Communication Studies program during the semester and write reflections on what you learned about good teaching and how your observations connect to course readings and class discussions.

5. **Full Course Development** (30 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)

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)

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)