



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

Description: Instructional Practice: Reflection and Experimentation						
Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
TEA	3301	40642	1, 2005	EXT	1.00	Toowoomba

Academic group:	FOEDU
Academic org:	FOE003
Student contribution band:	National Priority Teaching
ASCED code:	070109

STAFFING

Examiner: Bill Bittel

RATIONALE

Development and maintenance of instructional competence is an ongoing process. It requires consulting with professional colleagues and constant self-reflection and self-analysis. This course allows those teachers/trainers undertaking educational studies in a distance format to develop and enhance instructional competence through reflective practice, stimulated by interaction with professional colleagues in constructive and supportive environments within the organisations in which they carry out their instructional activities.

SYNOPSIS

TEA3301 is a course in instructional studies which focuses on encouraging learners to grow and develop as informed, thinking, self-evaluating professional instructors. It requires learners to engage in processes that monitor, reflect critically upon and improve their weaknesses and enhance their strengths in their instructional skills, practices and processes. This involves reflective practice and research and collecting data to better inform and maintain continuous improvement in their instructional practice. **IMPORTANT NOTE: Working with Children:** State law in Queensland requires that all adults (including university students, pre-service educators, trainers, vocational teachers, industry educators) working with children under the age of 18, in the State of Queensland*, obtain approval before commencing such work. Many education courses include a practical component (professional experience, project work, research, assessment etc.) that may require engagement with children under the age of 18. It is your responsibility to ensure that you possess a current suitability card (Blue Card) before commencing any practical components of this course. **DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 UNLESS YOU POSSESS A CURRENT 'BLUE CARD'**. For further information:

<http://www.childcomm.qld.gov.au/employment/bluecard/informationSheets.html> *If you are undertaking practical experience outside the State of Queensland, Australia you should check local requirements.

OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. document strengths and weaknesses in their instructional skills, practices and processes
2. improve strengths and enhance weaknesses in their practice by collecting data on effective philosophies, theories, practices and skills which better inform their practice
3. implement and evaluate different skills, practices and processes in their instructional practice to improve on weaknesses and enhance strengths in their operations
4. continuously improve their professional practice through a process of critical self-reflection, informed implementation, self-evaluation and analysis of on-going practices.

TOPICS

	Description	Weighting (%)
1.	Identification of strengths and weaknesses in instructional practice	20.00
2.	Analysis of collected theories and practices as they relate to improving and enhancing instructional practice	20.00
3.	Implementing strategies and applying critical self-evaluation as a basis for continuous improvement in ongoing instructional practice	60.00

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

Wilén, W (et al) 2004, *Dynamics of effective secondary teaching*, 5th edn, Pearson, Boston.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessment	50.00
Directed Study	115.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg(%)	Due date
ASSIGNMENT 1	1.00	0.00	18 Mar 2005
ASSIGNMENT 2	40.00	40.00	15 Apr 2005
ASSIGNMENT 3	60.00	60.00	10 Jun 2005
ASSIGNMENT 4	1.00	0.00	10 Jun 2005

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:
There are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students' responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
To complete each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for each assessment item.
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
In this course, if students are more than two weeks late with the submission of any assessment task, they are required to contact the course examiner, who may, at his/her discretion, grant a further extension.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
To be assured of a passing grade, students must demonstrate, via the summative assessment items, that they have achieved the required minimum standards in relation to the objectives of the course by satisfactorily completing all summative assessment items.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
- 6 Examination information:
There is no examination in this course.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
There will be no Deferred or Supplementary examinations in this course.
- 8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL <http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm> or in the current USQ Handbook.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1 **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Working with Children: State law in Queensland requires that all adults (including university students, pre-service educators, trainers, vocational teachers, industry educators) working with children under the age of 18, in the State of Queensland*, obtain approval before commencing such work. Many education courses include a practical component (professional experience, project work, research,

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