



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

Description: Instructional Practice: Reflection and Experimentation						
Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
TEA	3301	50574	1, 2006	EXT	1.00	Toowoomba

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

STAFFING

Examiner: Bill Bittel

Moderator: Joan Conway

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	1.00	24 Mar 2006 (see note 1)
ASSIGNMENT 2	40.00	40.00	21 Apr 2006
ASSIGNMENT 3	60.00	60.00	16 Jun 2006
ASSIGNMENT 4	1.00	1.00	16 Jun 2006 (see note 2)

NOTES

1. A mark of one (1) indicates you have passed the Assignment 1 component. A mark of zero (0) indicates you have not passed the Assignment 1 component. The weighting of 1% is used for administrative purposes only and is NOT included in the overall weighting for this course.
2. A mark of one (1) indicates you have passed the Assignment 4 component. A mark of zero (0) indicates you have not passed the Assignment 4 component. The weighting of 1% is used for administrative purposes only and is NOT included in the overall weighting for this course.

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.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- 1 The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the examiner.
- 2 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of request being made by the examiner. The student must retain this copy until the grade for this course has been finalised.
- 3 In accordance with the University's assignment extension policy (Regulation 5.6.1), the examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. 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 The Faculty will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed or printed on paper-based media. The Faculty will NOT accept submission of assignments by facsimile. Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should contact the examiner of the course to negotiate such special arrangements.
- 5 In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next working day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the examiner's convenience.
- 6 Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in a course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of a course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete - Make up). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study.
- 7 Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination); IDM (Incomplete - Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).
- 8 When there is more than one marker for a single item of assessment, the distributed patterns and means for the different markers will be compared and marks adjusted if necessary.
- 9 Marking criteria are provided in course material as mark sheets/guides or as part of assignment specifications.
- 10 Each assessment item must be submitted and passed.
- 11 Summative assessment items will receive a numerical score. Any ungraded assessment requirement will receive a Pass, Fail or Incomplete.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Students will require access to e-mail and Internet access to USQConnect for this course.
 - 2 Students are to use a recognised referencing system as specified by the examiner.
 - 3 **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.
 - 4 This course involves both a theory and a practical component. Information about the theory component is provided in the previous sections. The practical component requires students to negotiate a professional experience placement in an approved instructional setting that will involve opportunities for planning, implementation and evaluation of actual instruction for a minimum of 25 hours during the period of their enrolment in the course. The nature of the approved instructional setting depends on program enrolment. For students in the BEd(FET), and hence seeking teacher registration, these 25 hours contribute to the overall professional experience requirements set out by the Queensland College of Teachers. Specifically, students will be required to:
 1. Ensure that they have obtained and submitted evidence (to the Professional Experience Office) of possession of a current Working with Children Suitability Card prior to undertaking any professional experience.
 2. Make arrangements to undertake a supervised practicum in an approved instructional setting and submit the Teaching Placement Agreement Form to the Course Examiner with required attachments for approval prior to commencing any instructional experience.
 3. Receive a letter of approval from the Professional Experience Office before commencing the placement.
 4. Arrange for supervision during their practicum from a suitably qualified and experienced Teaching Mentor/Supervisor, who will complete formative and summative assessments of students' teaching (special requirements exist for BEd(FET) students).
 5. Obtain permission utilising the appropriate Video Clearance Forms for one of their instructional sessions to be videotaped for assessment by the Course Examiner.
 6. Maintain a Professional Experience Diary in which details of each instructional session are entered for submission to the Course Examiner prior to completion of the course. NB: Students who do not adhere to these requirements will be deemed not to have successfully completed the course.
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