

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

**EDUC 673 (WEEKEND INTENSIVE)**  
**CURRICULUM AND METHODS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### **I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A review of the history of education as it affects the development of the middle school. Emphasis on characteristics of preadolescents personalizing curriculum for the middle school student, and strategies for motivating middle grades education and curriculum improvement to involve teachers and community.

### **II. RATIONALE**

This course is designed to help educators gain a basic understanding of the nature of the middle school and to enable them to apply what they have learned in actual practice and in a God-centered manner.

### **III. PREREQUISITES**

Permission to take a graduate course. As stated in the Liberty University Catalog, it is the student's responsibility to make up any prerequisite deficiencies that would prevent the successful completion of this course.

### **IV. MATERIALS LIST**

**PLEASE SEE MBS DIRECT FOR UPDATED TEXTBOOK LIST.**

#### **REQUIRED:**

Dean, C. B., Hubbell, E. R., Pitler, H., & Stone, B. (2013). *Classroom instruction that works: Research-based strategies for increasing student achievement* (2<sup>nd</sup>). Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development.

Powell, S.A. (2011). *Introduction to middle school* (2nd ed.) Boston, MA: Merrill Education/Prentice Hall.

College LiveText edu solutions <http://college.livetext.com>  
3-ring binder

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

Roberts, P. L., & Kellough, R. D. (2007). Guide for developing interdisciplinary thematic units (4th ed.) Merrill Education.

## V. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student will be able to:

- A. Recognize individual principles of middle level instruction.
- B. Acquire the correct historical perspective of middle school.
- C. Apply strategies to help middle level teachers and students and their community.
- D. Investigate, summarize, and react to the types of curriculum (programs, materials, and activities) being conducted in middle schools.
- E. Develop a plan for designing, developing, and evaluating a curriculum.
- F. Examine multiple resources to develop curriculum that is current, accurate, meets necessary standards, and is meaningful and engaging for middle level learners.
- G. Evaluate the considerations necessary for meeting the needs of diverse populations in current middle level education.
- H. Construct personal meaning as a reflective practice.
- I. Integrate Christian and professional principles throughout the course.
- J. Generalize current professional literature regarding middle school and apply current APA style to course assignments.

## VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

**PLEASE SEE SYLLABUS IN COURSE FOR DUE DATES AND ASSIGNMENTS.**

### Assignments

#### 1. **Field Experience Project**

Candidates will delve deeply into one local middle school environment. Detailed directions and grading rubrics are available on Blackboard.

#### 2. **Textbook Interaction Assignment**

Using the Dean textbook, candidates will select two research based strategies (from the text).

#### 3. **Reflective Journal**

Using the Powell textbook, candidates will respond to one selection for each of the chapters' reflective sections at the end of each chapter.

#### 4. **Interdisciplinary Unit Plan & Group Presentation**

This assignment will allow each candidate to write his/her theoretical framework, curriculum mapping standards, create a unit plan, and participate in a group presentation of the unit plan. Detailed directions are available on Blackboard. Scheduled group meetings may be needed outside of class and in the evenings during the week of intensives.

#### 5. **Field Experience Presentation**

Candidates will explicitly depict the entire visit from the middle school through an engaging and visually appealing presentation.

#### 6. **Final Exam**

This is a cumulative exam that will be administered during the afternoon of the last class session.

## 7. Classroom Participation/Dispositions/Discussion

- Intensives adhere to stringent attendance policies. You are required to be in full attendance and actively participate for the entire week. Using computers or other electronics for non-class activities is prohibited. You must plan travel to take into account possible delays. It is also advisable to reschedule your course if you become ill.
- Disposition assignment should be completed in Livetext by the end of course.
- Class discussion and group participation are required during the weeklong intensive. Students are expected to actively participate in all assignments and activities.

*Students should plan to be working in groups during evenings.*

## 8. Civics Module

Students will complete the civics module in Livetext if currently pursuing licensure in *history or elementary education*. This is a mandatory requirement. Extra credit points will be given for completion by the end of course.

## VII. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

**Honor Code:** Please review the Honor Code as stated in *The Liberty Way*. “We, the students, faculty and staff of Liberty University, have a responsibility to uphold the moral and ethical standards of this institution and personally confront those who do not. Liberty University is an institution of higher education espousing Christian values and ethics. Each student is required to maintain an exemplary testimony and fulfill his/her responsibilities to the Honor Code.”

### A. Points

ASSIGNMENTS	Type	Submit how?	During Course	After Course	Pts
Field Experience Assignments	Independent	In class	X		150
Textbook Interaction Assignment	Independent	Blackboard	X		100
Reflective Journal	Independent	Blackboard	X		100
Unit Plan	Group/ Independent	Livetext	X		250
Group Presentation	Group	In class	X		100
Field Experience Presentation	Independent	In class	X		100
Active Class Participation	Independent	In class	X		100
Final Exam	Independent	Blackboard	X		100
Civics Module (history & elementary MAT majors only)	Independent	Livetext		X	5
End of course Survey Dispositions SCRIPT	Independent	Blackboard Livetext		End of Course	*
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>					<b>1000</b>

### B. Scale

A = 960–1000 A- = 940–959 B+ = 920–939 B = 890–919 B- = 870–889  
 C+ = 850–869 C = 820–849 C- = 800–819 D+ = 780–799 D = 750–779  
 D- = 730–749 F = 729 and below

All assignments must be successfully completed to pass the course. At no time will professor round grades (i.e. 939.9 points is still a B).

C. Late Work

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without appropriate excuse and pre-approval will receive the following deductions:

1. Pre Course assignments and Field experience assignment are due the first day of intensives or student will need to withdraw from the course immediately.
2. Assignments submitted after the due date will receive a late deduction.
3. All assignments must be submitted by the course deadline. *[If you are unable to complete the assignments by the course deadline, e-mail your advisor to withdraw prior to the course deadline to avoid a failing grade on your transcript.]*
4. Group assignments are due during the intensive week on the designed date including any presentation component.

VIII. Attendance Policies

Class attendance is mandatory. In case of unavoidable absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor, submit a reason in writing, and arrange for make-up work. Unexcused absences are subject to grade penalties.

- Attendance for ENTIRE WEEKEND, ALL day long is required for passing the course. Regular and punctual attendance is expected; do not be tardy each day or in returning from breaks.
- Because this class is taught in a residence format where you have come from all distances to this campus to learn and interact with others in a face-to-face format, participation is required. Various class activities will involve peer interaction, group work, group presentations, and nightly group meetings, etc. Participation and discussion are required.
- Assignments submitted late or after the final due date of the class will not be accepted without documentation or extenuating circumstances.
- Students experiencing scheduling conflicts are to submit assignments early.
- All assignments are prepared in APA Style using Microsoft Office (no other software program is accepted) and are submitted via Blackboard and/or LiveText.
- Points will be deducted for late assignments, incorrect grammar, spelling, APA Style, and failure to follow instructions.
- The ***LU Honor Code*** is to be observed in completion of all requirements. Violations (including plagiarism) will be handled according to the policies stated in the Liberty Way.
- Any work that must be revised and resubmitted will only receive a one letter grade improvement. No resubmitted work will receive an “A”.

- Assignments are due as stated on the course chart.
- **All assignments** must be completed and submitted in order to pass the course.

Lack of participation and effort or inappropriate interactions with others may result in a grade reduction or failure from the course.

*This policy is non-negotiable because of the short amount of time we have together. So please make travel arrangements early enough to allow for flight delays.*

## **IX. Other Policies**

- A. **Academic Misconduct**  
Academic misconduct is strictly prohibited. See The Graduate Catalog for specific definitions, penalties, and processes for reporting.
- B. **Disability Statement**  
Online students with a documented disability may contact the DLP Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [dlpodas@liberty.edu](mailto:dlpodas@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Residential students with a documented disability may contact the Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) in DH 2016 to arrange for academic accommodations.
- C. **Drop/Add Policy**  
Consult the Graduate Catalog for drop/add policies.
- D. **Dress Code (applies to classes meeting on campus)**  
Students are expected to maintain a neat, professional appearance while in class. Consult your department for additional guidelines. Presentation attire is business professional. See SOE Student policies for specifics.
- E. **Classroom Policies (applies to classes meeting on campus)**  
Classroom policies will be established and enforced by the individual instructor. Cell phones, internet social networking and other distractions take away from the learning environment. Use these on class assigned breaks only.

## **X. CALENDAR**

Please refer to the Course Chart in Blackboard for the class schedule and assignment due dates.

***This syllabus is subject to change by verbal or written announcement by the professor.***