



What Works in the Classroom: Preparing Students For Success

EDX 50022

Oct. 19-Dec. 12

2 Credit Hours

Nancy Smith

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Course Description: This course highlights strategies that help educators close achievement gaps and prepare students for their futures through great instruction. We will delve deeper into techniques that can be utilized when lesson planning, organizing class discussions, implementing behavioral expectations, building student motivation and more. Since being intentional about questioning, classroom routines, and classroom management can lead to increased student motivation and trust, we'll delve into strategies that increase high levels of student engagement.

Course Role in the Program/Major: This course is being offered as Professional Development for those interested in using technology in the classroom.

Course Prerequisite: No prerequisites for this course.



Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- explore techniques that increase student engagement and motivation
- investigate ways to design learning experiences that maximize student participation
- reflect on ways to improve their own teaching practices through carefully crafted classroom experiences

Course Materials:

Handouts provided by instructor and/or online resources to explore.

Instructor Bio:

Nancy Smith is a National Board Certified first-grade teacher with the Olathe District Schools and she has worked with teacher candidates at OUKC for over 30 years. Her prior experiences include providing home daycare for 17 years and 3 years as an Instructional Resource Teacher with the Olathe Schools. She has a BA in Elementary Education and Special Education and a MS in Curriculum Development with an emphasis on Reading and Language Arts. She is a winner of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching, and she was Olathe's Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2023. Outside of the classroom, she and her husband, Cliff, have 5 grown sons (ages 24-33), three daughters-in-law, a new granddaughter and another grandbaby on the way!



COURSE FORMAT

Online Format: Complete the syllabus assignments by the end of the entire course.

Competency Assessment

1. Article Reflection	50 pts
2. Make Learning Fun Again	50 pts
3. How To Be A Better Teacher	50 pts
4. Using Technology	50 pts
5. Video Reflection	50 pts.
TOTAL POINTS	250 pts

Grading Scale:

Percentage	Grade
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
Below 60%	F

IMPORTANT POLICIES

All course-specific policies for this course are spelled out here in this syllabus. However, additional university policies are located in the Ottawa University Student Handbook. You are responsible for reading and understanding all of these policies. All of them are important. Failure to understand or abide by them could have negative consequences for your experience in this course.

Late Assignments

Due to the timeline of this course, late assignments ARE NOT accepted.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated at any level on any assignment. The reality of cyberspace has made academic dishonesty even more tempting for some, but be advised that technology can and will be used to help uncover those engaging in deception. If you ever have a question about the legitimacy of a source or a procedure you are considering using, ask your instructor. As the University Academic Council approved on May 29, 2003, *“the penalty for plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will be failure in the course in which the academic dishonesty occurred. Students who commit academic dishonesty can be dismissed from the university by the provost/director.”* Please refer to Academic Honesty in the handbook for important information about Ottawa University’s policies regarding plagiarism and cheating, including examples and explanations of these issues. Academic dishonesty also includes turning in work submitted for a grade in another course.

Mission Statement: *Building on its foundation as a Christ-inspired community of grace and open inquiry, Ottawa University prepares professional and liberal arts graduates for lifetimes of personal significance, vocational fulfillment, and service to God and humanity.*



ASSIGNMENTS

Article Reflection

50 pts.

Read the following articles:

<https://www.hanoverresearch.com/insights-blog/k-12-education/k-12-closing-the-achievement-gap/>

<https://thirdspacelearning.com/us/blog/closing-achievement-gap/>

These articles are “list type” of articles that list out strategies to help close achievement gaps. Write a 1-page summary/reflection on the information presented. Which strategies appeal to you and why?

Make Learning Fun Again

50 pts.

Read this article, <https://www.thepathway2success.com/20-ways-to-make-learning-fun/> .

Think about an upcoming unit or lesson that you have presented in the past. Describe how you could incorporate one of the ideas from the article within this unit or lesson. What difference do you think it would make? What materials and resources would you need? How would your students respond to this strategy? Type up your ideas in a 1-page paper.

How To Be A Better Teacher

50 pts.

Do a Google search “How To Be A Better Teacher”. Peruse a few different sites and write a 1-page summary/reflection on the info. you find. Are you finding the same ideas over and over? Are any of these ideas new to you? Pick one or two ideas that appeal to you and describe how you would incorporate them in your classroom.

Using Technology

50 pts.

Write a 1-page paper discussing the role that technology plays in your classroom. What is working, and what needs improving? How is AI rolling out in your classroom? What safeguards do you have in place (either you personally, your school or your district) for using technology? How do you use technology to engage your students at higher levels? How are you learning about new technology developments? How many minutes per day/per class do you students use devices? Is this good or bad in your opinion?

Video Reflection

50 pts.

Watch this video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUr2Cllb4oo> . Write a 1-page summary & reflection about the ideas presented. How could you use some of these ideas...or how are you currently using some of these ideas. Do her ideas appeal to you...why or why not?

