

Course ID:	Course Title:	Fall 2021
FE 500 -1	FE 500 – Introduction to the Life of Schools	Prerequisite: none
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Delivery:	In Class	Instructor:	Nadia Verna, B.Ed., M.Ed.	First Day of Classes:	September 8, 2021
Days:	Friday	Email:	nadia.verna@ambrose.edu nadia.verna@education.ambrose.edu	Last Day of Classes:	December 10, 2021
Time:	8:30 – 11:00	Phone:	Cell: 403-808-8182	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	September 19, 2021
Room:	RE 110	Office:	RE 136 Sessional Office	Last day to withdraw from course:	November 22, 2021
		Office Hours:	By Appointment		

Course Description

The B.Ed. program includes three (3) graduated Field Experience (FE) courses integrated throughout the two-year program designed to augment and support the course work in the core education courses in the program. The FE courses are designed to give students a developmental and systematic experience in understanding the life of the school (FE 500), the life of teachers and teaching (FE 600), and an introduction to curriculum design and program planning (FE 700). The FE courses are integrated with the core education courses to give students a progressive and applied (theory to practice) understanding of the role of the teacher in a school, in teaching with other teachers and with responsibilities to the Program of Studies and the professional practice of translating the Program of Studies requirements into programs and instruction in the elementary school.

Field Experience 500 Seminar is a non-credit 20-hour class scheduled in Semester 1 of a student’s first year in the B Ed program. The seminar is intended for students to deepen and broaden their understanding of the lives of students, teachers and principals in Alberta public school classrooms and schools. The course consists of a weekly seminar and weekly visits to schools in Calgary and the surrounding area. Students will have the opportunity to observe students, teachers, and school personnel in a variety of settings and record their observations, questions, and reflections in a field journal. The school visits, along with assigned readings will form the foundation for the weekly seminars in which students will engage in guided discussions with their peers about their emerging understandings of the life of students, teachers and other school personnel. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the role of school culture in shaping the experiences of the various members of the learning communities.

Ambrose University School of Education partners with ten school sites for the 500-level field experience (in non-Covid years). Pre-service teachers will be organized in cohorts of five (or less) and provided a schedule of school visits for the entire fall semester. Cohort groups are mixed membership from both cohort sections and may be loosely structured around the geographical location of the pre-service teacher’s (PST) residence. As the partner schools are in a variety of school districts, located in Calgary and area, the PSTs may choose to carpool for Wednesday school visits with appropriate social distancing and wearing masks. FE500 seminar instructors will visit the school sites on Wednesdays to gain their own insights into the school context while meeting with PST cohort groups for informal discussion.

Teacher Quality Standards Addressed

An introduction and overview of all six of the Teaching Quality Standards will occur during throughout the fall semester.

Program Requirements:

Not applicable for this seminar course

Expected Learning Outcomes

Professionalism

The Bachelor of Education after degree program is the beginning of the pre-service teacher (PST) professional career as an educator. For this reason, the Ambrose University School of Education reflects the expectations and standards of the teaching profession. This is the hallmark of a professional degree. After completion of the degree and hiring, PSTs are held accountable to the Alberta Teaching Quality Standard which addresses professional behaviour in multiple ways (life-long learning, fostering effective relationships, adhering to policy...etc.) and the Alberta Teachers' Association Code of Professional Conduct. *Pre-service teacher professionalism in FE500 seminar and field experience school site visits will be referenced throughout the fall term.*

Textbooks

Recommended Text

Wood, C. (2017). *Yardsticks: Child and adolescent development Ages 4-14*. Center for Responsive Schools, Inc.

Recommended Readings

Barth, R. S. (2001). *Learning by heart*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass

Brookhart, S. M. (2010). *How to assess higher order thinking skills in your classroom*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.

Curwin, R.L., Mendler, A. N. & Mendler, B. D. (2008). *Discipline with dignity*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.

Davies, A. (2000). *Making classroom assessment work*. Courtenay, British Columbia: Classroom Connections Publishing.

Dufour, R. & Eaker, R. (1998). *Professional learning communities at work*. Bloomington, Indiana: ASCD

Jackson, R. R. (2009) *Never work harder than your students*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.

Jernberg, A. M. (1979). *Theraplay*. San Francisco, California: Jossey-Bass.

Marzano, R. (2007). *The art and science of teaching*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.

Marzano, R. (2003). *What works in schools: translating research into action*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD

Popham, W. J. (2008). *Transformative assessment*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD

Tomlinson, C. A. & McTighe, J. (2006). *Integrating differentiated instruction and understanding by design*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD

Vygotsky, L. S. (1998). *Thought and language*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press.

Vygotsky, L. S. (1978) *Mind in society*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Course Schedule

Session 1: Overview of Field Experience 500 and Field Journal Reflections

- Overview of the seminar (important dates for FE500, expectations of both seminar and school site visits, conditions for success in both the seminar and in schools during FE500)
- Overview of the program competencies
- Ethics, professionalism, and your professional image
- Review and discuss the Teaching Quality Standard.

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- Complete Module 1 & 2 on Mentorship

Session 2: **Inner lives of teachers**

- Who are you? What are your beliefs and values? How will they play out in a classroom? What are your “non-negotiables”? What are the factors that affect teacher attrition?
- Complete Modules 3 on Mentorship

Session 3: **Spiritual perspectives on education**

- Ethic of service within public schools. What assumptions are already being challenged? How do your emerging impressions affirm or disaffirm theories, beliefs and concepts regarding classrooms and schools?

Session 4: **Introduction and Overview of the Teaching Quality Standard**

- The primary focus of this session will be on competency 5, an introduction to Indigenous Foundational Knowledge

Session 5: **Indigenous Foundational Knowledge & The Blanket Exercise**

- This session may combine sections 1, 2, & 3. Due to Covid, we may not have the Blanket Exercise in this term. What does it mean to gain understanding of Indigenous Foundational Knowledge?

Session 6: **Professionalism**

Session 7: **School Culture**- buying in

- What is “school culture”? How do you understand the various roles within the school? What does it mean when a school chooses their vision? What is the role of school administration in shaping and shepherding the school vision? How does the School Act relate to the professional lives of teachers? How does the ATA Code of Conduct affect your life as a teacher?

Session 8: **Building affirmative relationships**

- How does a teacher foster affirmative relationships? What strategies/approaches are being used in your partner schools? What would a student’s “Bill of Rights” look like?

Session 9: **Student Engagement Through Effective Classroom Management**

Session 10: **Shared Praxis/Action Research**

- Why engage in action research? What is action research? How does one conduct action research? How do we use Action Research in our classrooms?

Session 11: **Safety and Duty of Care - with Crystal Pelletier**

Session 12: **Education in Alberta: structures, policies, and procedures**

- An overview of Alberta Education. Review of critical policies and procedures that are directly relevant to the classroom

Session 13: **FE600 orientation**

- Preparing for success in FE600. Keys to success.
- Introduction to FE600 documents and processes by the Director of Field Experience

Requirements:

The field experience seminar is primarily based on shared praxis related to the school observations and weekly readings and therefore attendance at each session is required at all seminar sessions. **In order to obtain credit for this course, students must successfully complete the following requirements:**

1. attend and fully participate in 90% of the seminar classes (missing more than one seminar will jeopardize obtaining credit)
2. successfully complete the field journal entries which will be handed in after PSTs have completed school observations
3. complete the in-class presentation on School Culture

Please note that successful completion of FE 500 is a pre-requisite for FE 600.

Field Journal Criteria

In order for the Field Journal to be completed successfully, it must meet the following criteria:

- field journal entries must include observations and insights based on the school visits
- field journal entries should be one to three pages in length (or 5-8 minutes in length if an audio/video recording method is chosen)
- field journal entries will include critical reflections about what the PST has observed in the school setting

An example:

In addition to writing that the hallways are decorated with student work, the PST will reflect upon why certain work was displayed, what does the work say about the academic nature of the school, what does this work say about the instructional strategies used in the classroom. Another key element of critical reflection is that of the self as a participant observer. How do you feel about the work displayed on the walls? How and why would you display student work? Another example might involve the PST observation about how the classroom is arranged. The PST may ask why it is arranged in a certain way and what does this arrangement say about the way in which information is obtained and shared in this classroom.

- field journal entries will reference and discuss the weekly readings, posted on Moodle. PSTs will reflect upon the readings and how they pertain to their school-based observations and their emerging understandings about the lives of students, teachers and principals in Alberta's schools.

PSTs are invited to choose their field journal format. Field journals are handed in after PSTs have completed one school observation round. A field journal entry will be completed for every school visit. FE500 field experience provides visits to six school sites with the expectation of six field journal entries. Written feedback will be provided based on the following rubric:

Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Not Yet Meeting Expectations
PST summarizes a minimum of four major points from school-based observations and the weekly readings	PST summarizes a minimum of two major points from school-based observations and the weekly readings	PST does not summarize any major points from the school-based observations or the weekly readings
PST reflects upon a minimum of four major points from the school-based observations and the weekly readings	PST reflects upon a minimum of two major points from the school-based observations and the weekly readings	PST does not reflect upon the readings or the school-based observations
PST poses three or more questions for further inquiry or reflection	PST poses only two questions for further inquiry or reflection	PST does not pose any questions for further reflection

In-class Presentation: School Culture

In PST organized small groups, PSTs will prepare a **fifteen-minute** presentation on one of the FE500 partner schools. PSTs must have visited a school site as a prerequisite to presenting. PSTs may use any format to display their work (e.g. PowerPoint presentations, lectures, dramatic presentation, mural). The purpose of the presentation is for the PSTs to identify and analyze critical aspects of a school's culture. The presentation should convey to the cohort a complete picture of the school and may include the following elements:

- School vision & mission
- Demographic profile of the students
- Communication patterns
- Teaching styles evident in the school
- Classroom management techniques
- School-wide clubs or programs (Circle of Courage, Lion's Quest, Leadership Club, Lighthouse Leader In Me Teams, Recycling Teams)

Submission of Assignments:

PSTs are required to hand in the field journal entries after completing school observations. The in-class presentations on school culture will be done throughout the fall semester on a sign-up basis.

Attendance:

Pre-service teachers are expected to attend all classes and participate in the class discussions. It is required that PSTs complete the required readings prior to class and come prepared to discuss the readings.

Grade Summary:

Pre-service teachers may be asked to share field journal entries with their colleagues in small discussion groups. PST participation will be evaluated at the midpoint and end of the semester using the following rubric:

Professionalism Assessment Rubric
FE500 Seminar

EXPECTATIONS	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Working Towards Meeting Expectations	Does not meet Expectations
Attendance to class and punctuality				
Completion of the assigned readings				
Engagement in class discussion and online forums				
Participate in a professional manner as per the professionalism expectations noted below				
Contributes documents to cohort resources				

This is a pass/fail course. No letter grades will be assigned.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

Strategies for success in FE 500:

- Be on time for field experience school visits and seminar sessions
- Complete all readings and contribute when you have resources to share
- Use the library, the resources that are suggested in class, and your own research
- Reach out to your mentor for support
- Build connections with your other 500 courses and course lecturers
- Develop supportive networks within the cohort
- Get comfortable with the uncomfortable, the uncertain and the ambiguous

Professional Engagement looks like:

- Attending seminar on time
- Letting *the seminar leader* know *in advance* of class if you will be absent
- Conducting personal business outside the classroom or on breaks
- Seeking support and feedback from multiple places (not just the seminar leader)
- Participating in class activities and tasks positively and enthusiastically
- Addressing issues and conflicts with peers and professor promptly and professionally
- Engage in respectful, appropriate email communication

Ambrose University Academic Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Exam Scheduling

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be

used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to

be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. We encourage students to build mental health supports and to reach out when help is needed.

On Campus:

- Counselling Services: ambrose.edu/counselling
- Peer Supportive Listening: One-to-one support in Student Life office. Hours posted at ambrose.edu/wellness.
- For immediate crisis support, there are staff on campus who are trained in Suicide Intervention and Mental Health First Aid. See ambrose.edu/crissupport for a list of staff members.

Off Campus:

- Distress Centre - 403-266-4357
- Sheldon Chumir Health Care Centre - 403-955-6200
- Emergency - 911

Sexual Violence Support

All staff, faculty, and Residence student leaders have received *Sexual Violence Response to Disclosure* training. We will support you and help you find the resources you need. There is a website with on and off campus supports – ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness.

Off Campus:

- Clinic: Sheldon Chumir Health Centre - 403-955-6200
- Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse - 403-237-5888

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.