Society and Culture: Methodologies and Practices in Education 700:
Theory Applied in School and Community Contexts (3 credits)
Semester 4, Online

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Semester: Winter 2014
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Course Description
This course introduces students to action-based learning and problem-solving approaches to school, culture and society. In this online course students will develop a strategic plan to provide transferable solutions to a living case, an actual school and culture and society problem. This course emphasizes large scale assessment and effective student assessment.

Prerequisite
SCMP 500 and SCMP 600

Class Times
This is an 8-week online class. Students will be guided through the content and assignments with Moodle, some face-to-face tutorials, and the possibility of some synchronous webinars (as necessary). Check Moodle for dates and times.

Learning Outcomes
At the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. Identify the gaps that exist between theory and practice.
2. Strategize how to deal with issues in a school setting.
3. Articulate their philosophy of education.
4. Synthesize their knowledge of teaching and learning into a model of practice.
5. Defend their model of practice with theory.
6. Integrate their model of practice within the current landscape of Alberta Education

Students are expected to:
- Contribute to the discussion forum in a timely manner. Follow instructions for each topical post. Read responses carefully, take note of detail, clarify and paraphrase perspectives, and build on each other's points.
- Complete the assignments by the due date.
- Examine and critically reflect on personal philosophy and position on issues without defensiveness.
- Reference experiences from recent practicum
- Initiate new ideas
- Communicate with instructor via email or phone with questions and concerns.
- Attend face-to-face tutorials and synchronous webinars.

Readings
There are no required texts for this course. All readings will be provided on Moodle.

Topics
Topic 1 – The Prac – Nine Weeks of Awesome or Awful?
Topic 2 – International Education and You
Topic 3 – Canadian Context
Topic 4 – Alberta Education
Topic 5 – Systems and Understanding
Topic 6 – Law, Politics and The Rights of a Teacher
Topic 7 – Terrific Teachers, Inspiring Ideas and Supercool Schools
Topic 8 – The Last Word

Course Themes
SCMP 700 will address the nine core themes of all SCMP courses in the following ways:

A. Ecological Systems Theory	Students will address many systems acting on the child: the classroom, their peers, family, culture, provincial standards, other teachers, school systems...etc in Topic 5
B. Cultural Underpinnings of Education	Topic 2-4
C. Societal/Cultural Issues Impacting Classrooms	Topic 6 will consider the various issues that impact student learning and your classroom.
D. Legal Issues	Topic 6 addresses the law and politics in education
E. Alberta Context	Topic 2-4 looks extensively at the Alberta context
G. On-going Professional Learning	Topic 1 and 7 gives students the chance to reflect on their field experience and identify areas for future growth.
H. Factors Affecting School/Community/Parent Relationships	Assignment 3 will give students a chance to articulate their philosophy around school-based relationships.
I. Exemplary Examples	Topic 7 is place to share stories of exemplary practice and ideas.

10 Ambrose Bachelor of Education Competencies
SCMP 700 will help students continue to develop the 10 competencies in the following ways:

Build affirmative relationships with children.	Assignment 3 - Promise to students
Apply theories of curriculum, learning, and assessment to the development of programs.	Final project
Build learning communities	Online discussions
Design teaching and learning scenarios that include inquiry-based learning.	Topic 7, Final project
Design inclusive learning experiences that recognize and accommodate all children, including those with exceptional learning needs.	Final project
Engage in shared praxis.	Online discussions
Design and implement programs that incorporate attention to cultural realities and diversities.	Topics 2-4, Final project

Understand critical and creative thinking as essential to learning in all programs.	Throughout Course, Final project
Demonstrate the essential dispositions that characterize a professional educator from the Ambrose University College Bachelor of Education program.	Throughout course
Address the non-academic barriers to learning by applying a variety of management strategies and effective classroom routines.	Final project.

Assessment

Assignments	%	Due Date
Assignment 1a – Contribution to Topical Discussion	20	On-going, April 11
Assignment 1b – Lead a Topical Discussion	10	Initial post - Feb 24 Summary – April 11
Assignment 2 – Case Study: Dilemma of Practice & Strategic Plan	20	March 4
Assignment 3 – Exit Thesis (shared with LTA 700 & CDPD 700)	50	April 4
Online Portfolio Completed	P/F	April 4

Grading
The available letters for course grades are as follows:

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Weight	Description
96-100	A+	4.0	
91-95	A	4.0	Excellent
86-90	A-	3.7	
82-85	B+	3.3	
75-81	B	3.0	Good
72-74	B-	2.7	
68-71	C+	2.3	
63-67	C	2.0	Satisfactory
60-62	C-	1.7	
56-59	D+	1.3	
50-55	D	1.0	Minimal Pass
0-49	F		Failure

Important Notes from Ambrose

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to Ambrose Academic Policies, such as the policy on Academic Dishonesty, which are stated in the current Catalogue. Please note that final grades will be available on the student portal. Printed grade sheets are no longer mailed out.

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 Office of the Registrar in writing 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 to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of the course and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to engage in electronically enabled activities *unrelated to the class* during a class session. During class, laptops and other hand-held devices should be used for class-related purposes only. The professor has the right to disallow a student to use their hand-held devices 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.

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 appropriate deadline (as listed in the Academic Calendar http://www.ambrose.edu/publications/academiccalendar). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

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 College 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 give credit 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 college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook 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.

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