

**EDUC 350: Foundations of Teaching as a Profession**  
**Monday and Wednesday 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: UH 444; CRN 30073 (Sec 1)**  
**California State University San Marcos Summer 2008**

Gilbert Valadez, Ed.D.  
Associate Professor of Education  
Phone: 760-750-8514  
Office email: gvaladez@csusm.edu

Fax: 760-750-3237  
Office: University Hall 300  
Office Hours: By Appointment

**Course Description:** This course serves as an orientation to careers in elementary, middle and high school education. Upon completion of this course, teacher candidates should understand the nature of formalized education in the United States and be able to assess his or her interest in teaching as a career. Major topics include:

- Understanding the roles of schools in society
- Exploring philosophies and contemporary issues in education.
- Assessing the roles of teachers in schools.
- Understanding the qualifications and credentialing process for California teachers.
- Understanding and appreciating the student as an individual.
- Understanding factors affecting student achievement.
- Understanding critical issues in curriculum and instruction.
- Understanding infusion of special education in general education practices.
- Understanding the laws that influence teaching responsibilities.

This course is required for all credential candidates. All students must complete forty-five (45) hours of supervised fieldwork in K-12 classrooms.

**Mission of the College of Education at Cal State San Marcos:** The mission of the College of Education Community is to collaboratively transform public education by preparing thoughtful educators and advancing professional practices. We are committed to diversity, educational equity, and social justice, exemplified through reflective teaching, life-long learning, innovative research, and on-going service. Our practices demonstrate a commitment to student-centered education, diversity, collaboration, professionalism and shared governance.

(adopted by COE Governance Community, October 1997)

**Authorization to Teach English Learners:** The Cal State San Marcos credential programs have been specifically designed to prepare teachers for the diversity of languages often encountered in California public school classrooms. The authorization to teach English learners is met through the infusion of content and experiences within the credential program, as well as additional coursework. Students successfully completing this program receive a credential with authorization to teach English learners.

(approved by CCTC in SB 2042 Program Standards, August 2002)

**Special Education Inclusion:** Consistent with the intent to offer a seamless teaching credential in the College of Education, this course will introduce the collaborative infusion of special education competencies that reflect inclusive educational practices. Students will demonstrate a knowledge of laws and dispositions that relate to special education through a variety of activities such as the viewing and analysis of the video F.A.T. City, reading and analysis of special education law, and *Creating an Inclusive School*.

**Students with Disabilities Requiring Reasonable Accommodations:** Students are approved for services through the Disabled Student Services Office (DSS). This office can be contacted by phone at (760) 750-4905, or TTY (760) 750-4909. Students authorized by DSS to receive reasonable accommodations should meet with their instructor during office hours or, in order to ensure confidentiality, in a more private setting.

**All University Writing Requirement:** In keeping with the All-University Writing Requirement, all 3 unit courses must have a writing component of at least 2,500 words (approximately). This will be met through written assignments.

**CSUSM Academic Honesty Policy:** Students will be expected to adhere to standards of academic honesty and integrity, as outlined in the Student Academic Honesty Policy. All written work and oral presentation assignments must be original work. All ideas/materials that are borrowed from other sources must have appropriate references to the original sources. Any quoted material should give credit to the source and be punctuated with quotation marks.

Students are responsible for honest completion of their work including examinations. There will be no tolerance for infractions. If you believe there has been an infraction by someone in the class, please bring it to the instructor's attention. The instructor reserves the right to discipline any student for academic dishonesty in accordance with the general rules and regulations of the university. Disciplinary action may include the lowering of grades and/or the assignment of a failing grade for an exam, assignment, or the class as a whole."

Incidents of Academic Dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students. Sanctions at the University level may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Plagiarism:** As an educator, it is expected that each student will do his/her own work, and contribute equally to group projects and processes. Plagiarism or cheating is unacceptable under any circumstances. If you are in doubt about whether your work is paraphrased or plagiarized see the Plagiarism Prevention for Students website <http://library.csusm.edu/plagiarism/index.html>. If there are questions about academic honesty, please consult the University catalog.

**College of Education Attendance Policy:** Due to the dynamic and interactive nature of courses in the College of Education, all students are expected to attend all classes and participate actively. Absences and late arrivals/early departures will affect the final grade. A minimum grade of C+ is required in EDUC 350 to qualify as prerequisite for admission to the Cal State San Marcos teacher credential program. COE attendance policy states, "At a minimum, students must attend 80% of class time, or s/he may not receive a passing grade for the course at the discretion of the instructor. Individual instructors may adopt more stringent attendance requirements." Should students have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. In this section of EDUC 350, the instructor has adopted this additional policy: If you miss two class sessions, you cannot receive a grade of A or A -; if you miss three class sessions, you cannot receive a grade of B+ or B.

**Credential Program Recommendations:** As one of several evaluation methods, EDUC 350 course instructors are asked for feedback concerning credential candidates who are applying for programs at Cal State San Marcos. Keep in mind that your professionalism and hard work in this class not only affect your course grade, but also indicate your readiness for a credential program.

**Field Work:** In addition to in-class work, assigned readings and projects, students will participate in forty-five (45) hours of supervised fieldwork assignments in a variety of public school settings. Details on the fieldwork are found on the COE syllabus webpage, at the top of the list of syllabi for this semester. Documentation of these hours is required to receive a grade in EDUC 350. Cal State San Marcos students are expected to adhere to professional standards in their dress and behavior in the field. Required clearances (fingerprints, TB test) are the responsibility of the student. A recommendation (usually from the classroom teacher where most of the fieldwork is done, also known as a Field Experience Recommendation) is a requirement for admission to the Cal State San Marcos Teacher Credentialing programs.

**Use of Technology:** Students are expected to demonstrate competency in the use of various forms of technology (i.e. word processing, electronic mail, WebCT6, use of the Internet, and/or multimedia presentations). Specific requirements for course assignments with regard to technology are at the discretion of the instructor. Keep a digital copy of all assignments for use in your teaching portfolio. All

assignments will be submitted online, and some will be submitted in hard copy as well. Details will be given in class.

### **Electronic Communication Protocol**

Electronic correspondence is a part of your professional interactions. If you need to contact the instructor, e-mail is often the easiest way to do so. It is my intention to respond to all received e-mails in a timely manner. Please be reminded that e-mail and on-line discussions are a very specific form of communication, with their own nuances and etiquette. For instance, electronic messages sent in all upper case (or lower case) letters, major typos, or slang, often communicate more than the sender originally intended. With that said, please be mindful of all e-mail and on-line discussion messages you send to your colleagues, to faculty members in the College of Education, or to persons within the greater educational community. All electronic messages should be crafted with professionalism and care.

Things to consider:

- Would I say in person what this electronic message specifically says?
- How could this message be misconstrued?
- Does this message represent my highest self?
- Am I sending this electronic message to avoid a face-to-face conversation?

In addition, if there is ever a concern with an electronic message sent to you, please talk with the author in person in order to correct any confusion.

**Teaching Performance Expectation (TPE) for EDUC 350:** A primary goal of EDUC 350 is to begin the process of developing teacher candidates to become professional educators. The following TPE of the California Commission for Teacher Credentialing is expected to be met during this course:

#### **TPE 12: Professional, Legal and Ethical Obligations**

Candidates are aware of their own personal values and biases and recognize ways in which these values and biases affect the teaching and learning of students. They resist racism and acts of intolerance. Candidates appropriately manage their professional time spent in teaching responsibilities to ensure that academic goals are met.

Candidates for a Teaching Credential understand and honor legal and professional obligations to protect the privacy, health, and safety of students, families, and other school professionals. They are aware of and act in accordance with ethical considerations and they model ethical behaviors for students. Candidates understand and honor all laws relating to professional misconduct and moral fitness.

#### **Teaching Performance Assessment for Developing as a Professional Educator**

The successful completion of the personal philosophy assignment is a requirement for completion of this course and is a component of partially meeting the TPE described above. This statement will be used for assessment both in the course and at completion of the College of Education program. Retain an electronic copy of your statement for submission for your portfolio at the completion of your teacher education program.

**Class Discussions and Participation:** Students will engage in student-centered learning each class session, and will be expected to actively participate.

- Do you participate in class discussions productively, sharing your knowledge and understandings?
- Do you interact productively with your peers, taking on a variety of roles (leader, follower, etc.)?
- Do you contribute appropriately to group work—do you “do your share”?
- Are you able to accept others’ opinions?
- Are you supportive of others’ ideas?
- Do you support your peers during their presentations?
- Can you monitor and adjust your participation to allow for others’ ideas as well as your own to be heard?

**Course Requirements:** Teacher education is a professional preparation program. It is expected that students will come to class prepared to discuss the readings, submit required assignments, and participate in class activities. Students are expected to adhere to academic honesty and integrity, standards of dependability, confidentiality and writing achievement. Because it is important for teachers

to be able to effectively communicate their ideas to students, parents, colleagues, and administrators, writing that is original, clear and error-free is a priority for the College of Education. It is expected that work will be turned in on time. Please discuss individual issues with the instructor. Points will be deducted if assignments are submitted late (10% penalty per day late; no credit will be awarded if the assignment is one week late).

**Required Texts:**

Nieto, Sonia. (2006). *Why We Teach*. NY: Teachers College Press. ISBN 0807745936, Approximately \$12 - 20.

Grant, Carl. A. & Gillette, Maureen. (2005). *Learning to Teach Everyone's Children: Equity, Empowerment and Education that is Multicultural*. Thomson & Wadsworth. ISBN 0-534-64467-8, Approximately \$ 45 - 65

Villa, R. A. and Thousand, J. S. (2005). *Creating an Inclusive School* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. , ISBN 0-87120-251-4 Approximately \$12 - 25

**Assignments and grading:**

1. Reading log 10 points

The reading log provides an opportunity to reflect on learning about teaching through the assigned readings for each week. In the reading log, do not summarize. Instead, respond to the readings: agree, disagree, note specific ideas, etc. Entries should be 1 paragraph in length. Log entries for the Monday/Wednesday class must be submitted via the course WebCT6 site by the prior Friday at noon each week.

Individual submissions are not graded; rather, their timely submission is noted and points are assigned on the basis of having completed the assignment for the semester. No credit will be given for late submissions. In extraordinary circumstances, if you do not have access to WebCT for a timely submission, you may email the log entry to me by Friday at noon at [gvaladez@csusm.edu](mailto:gvaladez@csusm.edu). Later, when you have WebCT access, you will resubmit.
2. Current events in education 5 points

Sign up for a date when you will be responsible for presenting an item from the week's news in K-12 education (10 minutes maximum). The item may be from television, radio, internet (e.g., [www.edweek.org/](http://www.edweek.org/)), newspaper, or magazine, and may pertain to local, national/, or international issues. You will summarize and present the importance of the news for your classmates. After you present your current event, go to the WebCT site and submit a one-sentence report as the "CE" ("Current Events") assignment, so that you can receive credit.
3. Interview of a teacher 15 points

Details are below. The written report is due via the WebCT site on **July 2**.
4. Inclusion, Diversity and Special Ed Laws 10 points

Details are below. The written report is due via the WebCT site on **June 23**.
5. Classroom observation reports 15 points

Using the classroom observation instrument provided in class, write up fifteen 30-minute observations in your field sites. Submit your observations on **June 25**. Also, bring hard copies of two of your write-ups to class on that day.

6. Contemporary issues research 20 points  
Choose (1) an issue that interests you (from the topics given to you by the instructor) and (2) one or two partners with whom to work. Research the issue and prepare an oral report to share in class. The report should describe and analyze the issue. Reports to the class will be spaced out over the class periods during the second half of the semester. When you present your research orally, provide a one-page summary and a reference list for your classmates. Each partner must submit the one-page summary to the WebCT site to receive credit for this assignment.
7. Personal philosophy of schooling, learning and teaching 15 points  
You will write a 4-5 page paper describing your philosophy of schooling, learning and teaching. Details are below. The written report is to via the WebCT site on **July 2**.
8. Participation 10 points  
This course is designed for active learning during class sessions. In order for this course to succeed for individuals and the group, students must come to class prepared to discuss assigned readings/topics and to participate in class activities. See details above in "Class Discussions and Participation."

Grades will be determined by the total number of points earned (100 points possible):

A = 93-100  
A- = 90-92  
B+ = 87-89  
B = 83-86  
B- = 80-82  
C+ = 77-79  
C = 73-76  
C- = 70-72  
D = 60-69  
F = 0-59

### **Assignment #3: Interview of a Teacher**

In this assignment, you will interview a teacher and write a 3–4 page summary of what you learned from him or her. Your purpose is to render a sketch so that your reader may be able to envision the teacher as a person with a distinct philosophy and experience.

#### **Gathering information:**

Interview a current or retired teacher who has had at least 3 years of full-time experience in elementary, middle, or secondary school classrooms. Suggested questions are:

Why did the teacher choose to enter teaching? How attractive was the profession to prospective teachers at that time? What were the other career paths available; were any others seriously considered? Does the teacher have any regrets about becoming a teacher?

What professional education did the teacher have? How helpful was it in learning to teach? At what point did the teacher feel comfortable as a teacher?

What were/are the teacher's goals for the education of students? Have these goals changed over the years?

What career moves (school buildings, grade level, special students, subject matter, etc.) has the teacher made? To what extent were those moves voluntary? For current teachers, are further moves desired? If so, what are they, and why?

What have been the major joys and frustrations of teaching? What would help increase the joys and minimize the frustrations? On what issues does the teacher feel strongly about making changes in the way that schooling occurs now?

How did/does the teacher learn about his/her students' lives and needs? How similar are the backgrounds of the teacher and his/her students? What have been the teacher's experiences with "culture shock" in working with students from different backgrounds?

What are some favorite memories from the teacher's classroom? Does the teacher tend to remember individual students or activities, or are the memories more general?

What does the teacher think of current "hot issues" in education such as the California High School Exit Exam and the No Child Left Behind Act? How does the teacher take action to address new reforms that impact his/her classroom?

What is the teacher's metaphor for "teaching" or "teacher"? What are the main features of the teacher's approach toward teaching? What has the teacher learned from being a teacher?

#### **Analysis:**

After collecting your information, think about what you have learned about this teacher. Focus on a few themes that best characterize what you have heard. Do not try to be all-inclusive. *Protect your teacher's confidentiality by using a pseudonym and masking identifying details.*

In your analysis, incorporate what you have been learning about becoming and being a teacher. How does your teacher fit within the material addressed in your readings and in class? What issues are raised through your interview? What are the implications of your interview as you think about becoming a teacher? Be sure you include at least one reference to the readings/discussions we have in class.

#### **Criteria for evaluation:**

Exemplary papers are characterized by:

- Completeness of description of the teacher's experiences and views
- Explanation of how the teacher interview relates to your thinking about teaching
- Integration of coursework (readings + discussions) into the analysis
- Correct grammar, syntax, spelling

## Assignment #4: Inclusion, Diversity and Special Ed Laws

You will apply your understanding of the legal context of inclusive education and laws that influence teaching responsibilities. Study the following chapters and web sites:

Grant, Carl. A. & Gillette, Maureen. (2005). *Learning to Teach Everybody's Children: Equity, Empowerment and Education that is Multicultural*. Thomson & Wadsworth. Read Ch 10.

Villa, R. A. & Thousand, J. S. (2005). *Creating an inclusive school*. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Read Ch 2.

U.S. Disability Law. Internet address:

[www.law.cornell.edu/topics/disability.html](http://www.law.cornell.edu/topics/disability.html)

Includes information about laws affecting people with disabilities.

OSERS IDEA Home Page. Internet address:

[www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/IDEA](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/IDEA)

Explanation of federal legislation known as IDEA, which ensures a free appropriate education in the least restrictive environment for children with disabilities. The latest 1997 federal reauthorization of the law is explained in detail.

Thousand, J.S. (2004) Article to be posted in WebCT

### Reflection and Applications:

Apply your understanding of the legal context of inclusive education and laws that influence your teaching responsibilities.

Identify five laws or court decisions that influence you as a professional educator. At least two of these five must relate to special education law. Provide your rationale (one paragraph) for each selection. Why is it important to you? How might it affect your teaching? Feel free to add insights from your personal experiences, observations and FAT City Video.

## Assignment #7: Philosophy of Schooling, Learning, and Teaching

Write a 4-5 page paper (double-spaced) that explains your personal philosophy of schooling, learning and teaching. Follow the template below, and self-assess before you turn in the paper.

### Paper Introduction

Name your philosophy (or combination of philosophies) as described by Grant & Gillette Ch 8. Explain why you are attracted to this philosophical stance. Is it due to your own schooling and/or background, what you've seen in schools since your own school days, the influence of particular persons, texts, other experiences with children/youth, etc.? Describe the level of schooling and subject field(s) you hope to teach.

### Nature of schooling

Describe what you believe is the purpose of schooling in a democracy.  
How will you as a teacher help achieve these purposes?  
Give 1-2 examples of how this will look in your classroom/career.

### Nature of the learner

Describe what you believe is the nature of the learner.  
What are your thoughts about the students you will teach? What do they need from a teacher?  
Give 1-2 examples of how this will look in your classroom.

### **Nature of the teaching/learning process**

Describe what you believe is the nature of the teaching/learning process?  
What do you believe counts as knowledge and how should it be presented?  
How will you as a teacher use subject matter and other experiences to guide students toward meaningful learning activities?  
Give 1-2 examples of how this will look in your classroom.

### **Teacher dispositions and actions**

Describe what behavior (disposition/attitude & actions) you will exhibit in order to carry out your philosophical position.  
Give 1-2 examples of how this will look in your career.

### **Conclusion**

Recap your philosophy.  
What are your outstanding questions/concerns/thoughts about becoming a teacher?

### **Criteria for Self- Assessment of Philosophy Paper**

Be sure to self-assess using the following criteria. Submit the self-assessment with your final draft of your philosophy paper (at least one “beefy” paragraph). These are the criteria that will be used to evaluate your philosophy paper.

Exemplary papers have the following characteristics:

**Ideas:** The paper is clear and focused. It holds the reader’s attention. Relevant information and details enrich the central theme. Ideas are supported by research, practical knowledge and experience.

Conclusions show insight.

**Organization:** The organizational structure enhances and showcases the central idea or theme of the paper. An inviting introduction draws the reader in; a satisfying conclusion leaves the reader with a sense of closure and resolution. Sequencing is logical and effective. Thoughtful transitions tie parts together. The paper flows so smoothly, the reader hardly thinks about it.

**Connections:** The paper includes multiple references to EDUC 350 class experiences (specific text selections, class discussions, fieldwork observations, assignments, current events, etc.).

**Voice:** The writer of this paper speaks directly to the reader in a manner that is individual, compelling, engaging, and has personality.

**Sentence Fluency:** The writing has an easy flow. Sentences enhance the meaning. Sentences vary in length and structure. The piece has purposeful and varied sentence beginnings.

**Conventions:** The writer demonstrates a good grasp of standard writing conventions. Spelling is generally correct. Punctuation is accurate. Grammar and usage are correct. Paragraphing tends to be sound. The piece needs very little additional editing.



**Schedule as of 06/01/08**  
**Schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading log due on prior Friday noon</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
June 2	Course intro Why teach?	Read the field experience guidelines at <a href="http://lynx.csusm.edu/coe/index.asp">http://lynx.csusm.edu/coe/index.asp</a> You will find this at the top of the Spring syllabi webpage, "EDUC 350 Field Experience"	Access the WebCT6 course website at <a href="http://webct6.csusm.edu/webct/entryPageInns.dowebct">http://webct6.csusm.edu/webct/entryPageInns.dowebct</a> Read: Perfect Day article
June 4	Becoming a teacher (Student Services presentation Jan 29)	Log 1: GG ch. 6  In addition to the reading for your log, read the website brochure of your choice at: <a href="http://lynx.csusm.edu/coe/academics/">http://lynx.csusm.edu/coe/academics/</a> and the EDUC 350 advising session info at: <a href="http://lynx.csusm.edu/coe/ssc/Presentations.asp">http://lynx.csusm.edu/coe/ssc/Presentations.asp</a>	Discussion of Valadez article- "Perfect Day: A Meditation about Teaching"  Current Events reports
June 9	The lives and work of teachers  Inclusion	Fat City Video and Educational Ethics Role Play Activity  Log 7: VT ch 1, 2	Read Nieto text  Current Events reports
June 11	Schooling in a democracy  Philosophical perspectives	Log 2: GG ch 1 & "The Goals of Education" article on WebCT site  Log 3: GG ch 8	Bring Nieto (skimmed)  Current Events reports
June 16	School organization  Rights and responsibilities	Log 4: GG ch 7  Log 5: GG ch 10  Log 9: Peruse the National Middle School Association website, <a href="http://www.nmsa.org">www.nmsa.org</a> React to the website for your reading log.	Work on log entries and Special Education assignment <u>independently</u>
June 18	School finance and Governance Interview with Ms. Aimee Thurston	Log 10: GG ch 9, 11	Current Events reports
June 23	Presentations	Log 6: GG ch 2  Based on the reading, write 3 questions for the panel instead of a paragraph for the log this week Log 8: Reaction to Nieto	Bring Nieto (done)  Current Events reports  Due: Special Education Inclusion assignment

June 25	Presentations		Observations Due. Current Events reports
June 30 and July 2	Presentations	Class closure- Why teach?	Current Events reports Due: July 2- Philosophy Paper and Teacher interview