

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN MARCOS  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
Fall 2010**

**EDUC 644 Multicultural Students and Families in Public Schools (CRN# 41949)  
University Hall 439**

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Wednesdays after class**  
**Course Hours: Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.**

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT**

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).

**GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**All University Writing Requirement.** Writing requirements for this class will be met as described in the assignments. Every course at the university, including this one, must have a writing requirement of at least 2500 words.

**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.

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:** It is expected that each student will do his or her own work, and contribute equitably to group processes and projects. 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 is any question about academic honesty, consult the University Catalog.

**Ability:** Every student has the right to an equitable education and appropriate accommodations. Students having differing ability (mobility, sight, hearing, documented learning challenges, first language/English as a second language) are requested to contact the professor at the earliest opportunity. Every effort will be made to accommodate special needs. Students are reminded of the availability of Disabled Student Services, the Writing Center, technology assistance in the computer labs, and other student support services available as part of appropriate accommodations for special needs students. Students may be required to use the Writing Center or similar resource for all written assignments, based on performance on the first writing assignment.

**Students with Disabilities Requiring Reasonable Accommodations.** Students are approved for services through the Disabled Student Services Office (DSS). This office is located in Craven Hall 5205, and 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 at the earliest opportunity.

**Appeals:** Every student has the right to appeal grades, or appeal for redress of grievances incurred in the context of any course. Disputes may be resolved informally with the professor, or through the formal appeal process. For the latter, consult Dr. Patricia Prado-Olmos, Associate Dean, College of Education.

### **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. E-mail and on-line discussions are a very specific form of communication, with their own nuances and etiquette. Because e-mail is convenient and is used for both personal and professional purposes, you should be mindful of courtesies and limitations with regard to professional e-mail. You should not expect immediate responses to e-mail at any time, especially to queries posted on weekends and holidays, late at night, or early in the morning.

Reading and responding to e-mail takes a great deal of time. Often the response is more involved and complicated than can be adequately conveyed in e-mail form. If you have a multifaceted question or issue, it would probably be best to have a verbal discussion face to face or on the phone. E-mail sent in all upper case (or lower case) letters, major typos, slang, salutations that are very personal, etc. 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 or on the phone what this electronic message specifically says?

- How could this message be misconstrued?
- Can this message wait until I see the recipient in person?
- Does this message represent my highest self?
- Am I sending this electronic message to avoid a face-to-face conversation?

Most importantly, 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.

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

The Governance Community of the College of Education adopted the following policy on 12/19/1997:

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. **At a minimum, students must attend more than 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 the student have extenuating circumstances, s/he should contact the instructor as soon as possible. This course deals with complex material processed in a variety of ways. Structured interactions, group processes, oral presentations, guided discussion of readings, and self-disclosure exercises are the norm. Given the fast-paced and highly interactive nature of the course, and given that teaching and learning is difficult (if not impossible) without regular attendance and full engagement in class, the above College Policy is amplified as follows:

Your attendance and participation are basic to your learning and my evaluation of your learning in this class. You are expected to establish appropriate personal, academic and career priorities to facilitate said attendance and participation in this class.

\*Your grade will be negatively affected by absences and positively affected by regular attendance. **You will lose 10 points for each tardy or early departure, and 50 points for each absence, explained or unexplained.** One absence may be made up with approval.

\*\*Illness and emergency circumstances will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

These measures are intended to encourage responsibility for one's own learning in a democratic, collaborative and reciprocal-learning environment.

### Grading

94 – 100 = A;	80–83 = B-
90 – 93 = A-;	77-79 = C+
87 - 89 = B+;	73-76 = C
84 – 86= B;	70-73 = C-

**Grading Emphasis:** Each written assignment will be graded approximately 80% on content and writing (detail, logic, synthesis of information, depth of analysis, etc.), and up to 20% on mechanics (grammar, syntax, spelling, format, uniformity of citation, etc.). You are expected to write at or above the minimum competency level for writing. All citations need to use APA format.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines topics that allow students to increase their level of awareness, knowledge and skills that will render them effective teachers with culturally diverse students and families. Students will understand how families function and interact with schools. We will consider how mainstream society defines / describes families and the ways families define and describe themselves. We will consider specific ethnic groups as well as interracial families, and inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic relations.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this course are as follows:

- Examine the meaning of home-school connections in a Multicultural Society through the lens of a theoretical framework and application for families and students with various backgrounds.
- Understand and develop empathy for students and families different from your own.
- Apply real world analysis of data on the concept of the Achievement Gap and how the home-school connections may explain such student outcomes.
- Examine critically how teachers, classrooms, and schools can meet the needs of students and parents.
- Create a portfolio of strategies built on knowledge, awareness and skills for developing partnerships with diverse families successfully.
- Establish a role of “agent of change” in local schools that directly increases access and understanding of diverse learning communities.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Required Texts**

Dantas, M.L. & Manyak, P.C. (2009). Home-School Connections in a Multicultural Society Learning From and With Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Families. New York: Routledge. ISBN-10: 0415997577

Moodle: Other articles selected by instructor.

## Assignments

All students are expected to participate in class activities and demonstrate reflective learning. It is important that students are well prepared for course sessions by completing the readings and assignments scheduled BEFORE each class session.

All assignments are to be submitted on the due date. **Assignments not handed in on the due date will lose 10% of earned credit per day.** Assignments should be typed in 12-pt font, double-spaced, submitted electronically on Moodle AND in submitted in paper format in class.

- Attendance and Participation (In class & On-Line) **200 points**
- Culture Expert Assignment **200 points**
- Resource Review **200 points**
- Ethnographic interview or School Family Event **300 points**
- Reflections **100 points**

## Assignments

***Note:** Please note that all of your assignments will need to be submitted twice - once electronically on Moodle, and once in person in paper format. All grading is done on the paper format.*

### **A. (Attendance and) Active Participation – both online (Moodle Discussion Board) and in class**

**Regular Preparation and Participation (200 points).** This course is intended to be highly interactive and participatory with the expectation that students will be able to have deep conversations that matter about topics related to home-school connections in a multicultural society. As a class, we will establish norms in how we will communicate. The class will strive to establish and maintain an environment of open and honest conversations about issues related to multicultural families in schools. Of the grade, 25% earned in the class will depend on the degree to which students participate actively in class activities and conversations (both online and in class).

Students will post comments on readings. The postings may also include current issues as they relate to each session's topic on Moodle PRIOR TO each session. **Your comments need to directly quote, reflect on, and analyze your readings. In other words, your opinions and application statements need to be preceded by an explicit analysis of the text and response.**

## **B. Written Assignments and Presentations**

### **1. Culture Expert Assignment [Presentations] {SEE RUBRIC} – DUE SESSION 4, 5, 7, 8**

You may work in groups of up to 2 students (3 with approval) for this assignment.

Your group will be responsible for **presenting** one culture in a dynamic, interactive way to the class. Some presentation components may include a case study of a student and family (together), songs, poetry, traditional story, an audio-visual of the culture / language group, current community and school issues faced by this group, and considering the merits of a legal case that would involve the class in determining an equitable resolution of the case. **IMPORTANT:** Please be mindful of the distinction between cultural characteristics and be **EXPLICIT** in your work and presentations. For example, presenting a Chinese folktale is very different from presenting a story about a Chinese American experience. Each participant must present equally in preparation and presenting the material.

Each participant must **submit** to the instructor a written reflection the day of the presentation that includes but not limited to, the following: Research citations, original intention, purpose to convey to the audience and what did you learn?

### **2. Resource Review – Home-School Connections in American Schools [SUBMIT] DUE SESSION 10**

Research a current issue in education and/or society related to families that will likely have an impact on your educational practice. Choose a resource (articles, book, film, community center, community program, websites, other – see the SDCOE Parent Resource Guide on the SDCOE website or on Moodle Resources module for examples) you wish to review related to an issue of interest to you. Then, examine and analyze the resource to prepare and **submit** a 2 to 3-page (maximum) review and accompanying 5-slide (maximum) PowerPoint presentation, extrapolating social / personal implications for your own professional goals as an educator in a diverse society, as well as policy and legal considerations. Some issues you might consider are the legal rights of parents (e.g., program selection for parents of English Learners under Proposition 227 or the Categorical Program Monitoring process established by the State), and language and literacy resources for parents.

Your review should include the following:

- a) A discussion of the resource reviewed. (e.g., 2 articles or 1 book or 1 center or...)
- b) Why is this issue important?
- c) How does it relate to your passion about education?
- d) How can addressing this issue have a positive impact on education or society?

- e) What might happen if schools do make changes to address the issue?
- f) What can you, as an educational leader, do to have an impact in transforming schools or society to address the issue?

### **3. Reflections on Essential Questions – DUE SESSION 5 & 12 [SUBMIT] {SEE RUBRIC} & Resource Reviews – DUE SESSION 4, 8 & 12 [POST]**

At the beginning of each class there will be an Essential Question which will be the base for your reflection as we begin each class. Class time will be provided to allow for reflection before and at the end of class. Please keep a composition book or journal with your reflections. I will ask to review them periodically during the class in order to establish progress in your reflections.

Throughout the semester, in Moodle, you must read at least three other reviews posted by your colleagues and **post** a brief reflection (1 – 2 paragraphs maximum) about each review. You must have posted a minimum of one by Sessions 4, 8 & 12. Reflections need to be uploaded and posted on Moodle under “Assignments” AND the “FORUMS.” In your reflections, please include the following for each:

- a) How does this issue resonate with you?
- b) Do you see a connection with the issue your colleague addressed and the issue you selected and examined?
- c) What are your recommendations for making a difference or having an impact as it relates to this issue?
- d) How can addressing this issue have a positive impact on education – on BOTH of the following groups: students, families and communities? For ALL students and society at large?

### **4. Ethnographic interview with a Principal or Assistant Principal [PRESENTATION] - DUE SESSION 10, 11, 12, 15**

You may work in groups of up to 4 students for either assignment.

In this assignment, you will conduct an interview of a Principal or Assistant Principal to discuss what has worked in building successful home-school connections. The purpose of the interview is to conduct an extensive analysis of the issues and topics discussed in class, and gain insight into how theory is placed into practice for educators.

To the degree possible, you should be able to identify if a home-school connection has been established and whether it is sustainable.

A digital video of the interview needs to be prepared and submitted (permission from the interviewee needs to be secured – see the permission form on Moodle / Resources). You will be responsible for compiling a portfolio that contains the following four components:

- a) the interview questions and transcript of responses to the questions,
- b) a video (DVD),

c) a summary and analysis of the interview (focus on the interviewee), and  
d) your own reflections about the interview (focus on impact on your thinking).  
The reflection should, minimally, address your impressions of, relate the information obtained from class discussions and describe what you learned from this experience. All students will give class presentations of the interviews.

**OR**

**School Family Event [SUBMIT] - DUE SESSION 10, 11, 12, 15**

You will need to plan and implement a special school event (family science night; “Cuéntame un cuento,” etc.) to encourage family and community involvement in school. For the assignment, you are to submit all the artifacts:

- a) invitations or notices,
- b) agenda
- c) photos or video,
- d) a 2 to 4-page reflection MAX in response to the following questions:
  - a. How did the event incorporate families’ strengths?
  - b. How did the event incorporate the diverse families’ languages and cultures?
  - c. Describe the essential ambience and climate that emerged during the event.
  - d. What did you learn from the event?
  - e. What would you improve next time you implement a similar event?
  - f. Final words of wisdom you would like to share with other educators.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

*This course schedule is tentative and may change to accommodate topics that arise during the discussions and conversations.*

Date	Activity/Topic – In Class	Readings/Assignments – Prep BEFORE Class
Session 1 9/1/10	Syllabus Introductions Education and the world today	Recent Topics regarding Home-School Connections and diverse communities
Session 2 9/8/10	Syllabus details and signups API/AYP Discussion	Moodle: Hoy: Academic Optimism of Schools: A Force for Student Achievement
Session 3 9/15/10	Theory to Practice in building Home-School Connections  Achievement Gap  Personal experiences with diverse families in schools	Dantas & Manyak (2010) <b>Chapter 14:</b> Home-School-Community Collaborations in Uncertain Times – Francisco Rios  Moodle: Parent Power (2010), United States Department of Education  Moodle: Yosso (2005) Whose culture has capital? A critical race theory discussion of community cultural wealth
Session 4 9/22/10	Culture/Religion/Region/Neighborhood  <b>Culture Expert Presentation Group #1</b>	Dantas & Manyak (2010) <b>Chapter 5:</b> Discontinuities and Differences among Muslim Arab-Americans: Making It at Home and School – Loukia K. Saroub  Moodle: Cole & Ahmadi (2010): Reconsidering Campus Diversity: An Examination of Muslim Students' Experiences  Moodle: Select readings
Session 5 9/29/10	Parents' Motivations for Involvement in Their Children's Education  <b>Culture Expert Presentation Group #2</b>	Dantas & Manyak (2010) <b>Chapter 7:</b> Fostering Academic Identities among Latino Immigrant Students: Contextualizing Parents' Roles – Lilia D. Monzó  Moodle: Hartman (2010): School connectedness and Cultural Dynamics (pp. 80-85)  Moodle: Select readings  Suggested Films: Quinceanera, Mi Familia

<p>Session 6 10/6/10</p> <p><b><u>Moodle Session</u></b></p>	<p>Influences and Challenges to Better Parent-School Collaborations</p> <p>Moodle Task: Draft of Interview Questions or School Event Project</p>	<p>Moodle: Select readings</p>
<p>Session 7 10/13/10</p>	<p>Intercultural Considerations in School-Family Partnerships</p> <p>Chinese (a. Cantonese &amp; b. Mandarin) Culture and Language Expert presentations by 2 groups</p> <p><b>Culture Expert Presentation Group #3</b></p>	<p>Dantas &amp; Manyak (2010) <b>Chapter 3:</b> The Impact of Social Dynamics on Immigrant Children's Language and Literacy Practices: Learning from Asian Families – Guofang Li</p> <p>Moodle: Select readings</p> <p>Suggested Films: Joy Luck Club</p>
<p>Session 8 10/20/10</p>	<p>African American Families and Social Change</p> <p>a) Haitian Creole / b) AAVE / c) Somali Culture and Language presentations by 3 groups</p> <p><b>Culture Expert Presentation Group #4</b></p>	<p>Dantas &amp; Manyak (2010) <b>Chapter 6:</b> Building Connections between Homes and Schools – Melissa M. Schulz</p> <p>Moodle: Select readings</p> <p>Suggested Films: The Pursuit of Happyness, Akeelah and the Bee, Down in the Delta</p>
<p>Session 9 10/27/10</p> <p><b><u>Moodle Session</u></b></p>	<p>Parental Involvement and Children's School Success</p>	<p>Moodle: Select readings</p>
<p>Session 10 11/3/09</p>	<p>Federal Education Initiatives</p> <p><b>Ethnographic interview with a Principal or Assistant Principal Group #1</b></p>	<p>Dantas &amp; Manyak (2010) <b>Chapter 13:</b> Respecting Children's Cultural and Linguistic Knowledge: The Pedagogical Possibilities and Challenges of Multiliteracies in Schools – Maria José Botelho, Sarah L. Cohen, Lisa Leoni, Patricia Chow, and Padma Sastri</p> <p>Moodle: Select readings</p> <p><b>Home-School Connections in American Schools - DUE SESSION 10</b></p>

Session 11 11/10/10	<b>Ethnographic interview with a Principal or Assistant Principal Group #2</b>	Dantas & Manyak (2010) <b>Chapter 12:</b> How Knowledge Counts: Talking Family Knowledge and Lived Experience into Being as Resource for Academic Action – Elizabeth Yeager and Ralph A. Córdova, Jr.  Moodle: Select readings
Session 12 11/17/10	<b>Ethnographic interview with a Principal or Assistant Principal Group #3</b>	Dantas & Manyak (2010) <b>Chapter 8:</b> Do You Hear What I Hear?: Using the Parent Story Approach to Listen to and Learn from African American Parents – Patricia A. Edwards and Jennifer D. Turner  Moodle: Select readings  <b>School Family Event - DUE SESSION 12</b>
Session 13 11/24/10	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>HOLIDAY</b>
Session 14 12/1/10  <b><u>Moodle Session</u></b>	The State's Role in Family-School Partnerships	Moodle: Select readings  Suggested Film: Smoke Signals
Session 15 12/08/10	<b>Ethnographic interview with a Principal or Assistant Principal Group #4</b>	Dantas & Manyak (2010) <b>Chapter 9:</b> Home Visits: Learning from Students and Families – Maria Luiza Dantas and Michelle Coleman  Moodle: Select readings  <b>DUE: Reflections to 3 Resource Reviews</b>