

# **EDSS 541: Interdisciplinary/Disciplinary Secondary Methods**

**(5 credits) Part Time Cohort (8 weeks)**

**Faculty: Interdisciplinary Methods: Nancy Dome; Disciplinary Methods: Secondary Team—Tay Cooper (Social Studies); Dr. Tom Bennett (Math); Ms. Michelle Mullen (Language Arts); Dr. Joe Keating (Science); Dr. Rosario Diaz- Greenberg (Foreign Language)**

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**The Mission of the College of Education Community is to transform public education by preparing thoughtful educators and advancing professional practice. We are committed to the democratic principles of educational equity and social justice for all learners, exemplified through reflective teaching, learning and service. We value diversity, collaboration, professionalism and shared governance.**

## **Description:**

This course will integrate methods in one's discipline with techniques to design interdisciplinary curriculum, one of the tenet's of Second to None. In one aspect of this course students will be intensively trained in their discipline. Some of the assignments will be linked to their teaching experiences during advanced student teaching and reported during reflections week. Students will be taught discipline specific methods for each of the five disciplines in small seminars per the schedule. The subject specific discipline seminars are scheduled throughout the program for approximately 2.5 hours. There will be approximately ten seminars in each discipline. You are required to attend and participate in your major area and also encouraged to attend your supplementary area. The schedule for the seminars will be arranged to generally not conflict in order to facilitate this. Specific activities, texts and requirements of each seminar will be determined by that instructor under a separate syllabi. This (disciplinary) part of the course will be worth 50% of your grade since it is approximately half of the total of 5.0 credits.

The Interdisciplinary aspect of the course will have formal class meetings once a week (or every other week for the part time cohort) for a total of five classes to complete the design of an Interdisciplinary Thematic Unit (ITU). The ITU student teams will be organized by actual school sites (full time) or theoretical (part time). These teams will incorporate individual members skill and knowledge of there own subject matter gained during discipline seminars to assist the team in designing an ITU specific and appropriate for that school site. The course builds on your knowledge of basic lesson planning and subject matter unit planning that you practiced first semester in coursework and field experiences. In order to facilitate the production of an ITU three major concepts/skills will be developed: 1) a personal (private) and philosophical/theoretical (public) perspective on curriculum development; 2) a structured, process approach for designing interdisciplinary thematic units; 3) application of appropriate logistics to accomplish and implement an ITU in a school setting. This part of the course will be worth 50% of your grade (the Action Research project will be included as part of this grade as a carryover assignment from first semester work for those who have not completed it).

**Required Text:**

*A Guide for Developing an Interdisciplinary Thematic Unit* (Merrill Press) Second Edition by Roberts and Kellough (1999).

**Objectives:**

Upon completion of these two aspects of this course, each student will be able to demonstrate knowledge, understanding, appreciation and applications for:

- 1) Basic frameworks from each major (minor) discipline;
- 2) Basic history, philosophy and strategies utilized in one's major (minor) discipline;
- 3) Curriculum development from a personal and public perspective;
- 4) Application of cooperative learning skills and training methods that are applicable for teachers designing and implementing interdisciplinary curricula;
- 5) Design processes used in the development of an interdisciplinary, thematic units (ITU).

**Course Schedule/Overview:**

See master schedule for dates, rooms and faculty for each discipline specific class. The interdisciplinary part of the course will be held Monday from 9-11:45 for the **Inland** from 12:30-3:15 **Coastal** and on Tuesday from 6:00-7:50 every other week for the **Part-time** .

Your team should appoint a **group leader** who will be responsible for submitting their groups completed intermediate tasks on time each week. You will receive a *formative (intermediate) assessment* for each of these per your task completion schedule. Your group will also receive a *summative (final) assessment* based on the final presentation and written report on your Interdisciplinary Thematic Unit (ITU) plan. **Individual** as well as **group grades** will be used for both formative and summative assessments.

As an individual you will also be responsible to complete the assigned readings and reading logs from the text (as a basis for class discussions). In order to evaluate your understanding and ability to apply this process, you will be given a final written exam related to designing Interdisciplinary Thematic Unit (ITU).

**(Assignments and Readings listed in bold with \*)**

**Class 1: February 12:**

**(\*Read Chapter One-Introduction to ITU)**

- Work Independently in groups—**tasks due (rough draft):**
  - #1 Brainstorm Theme/location/grade level/time frame
  - #2 rationale/justification : should be 1) specific for site as well as 2) inclusion of specific standards that are addressed for each of the disciplines applied and infuse 3) private, personal curriculum philosophy

**Due: Group Task Sheet with task #1 and #2**

**Class 2: February 19:**

**(\*Read Chapter Two-- Initiating ITU's)**

- Work Independently in groups--**tasks due (rough draft):**
  - #3 Overview of description of ITU;
  - #4 The overall behavioral objectives (cognitive, psychomotor, affective) as well as the type of assessments that would be used for these ITU objectives (summative/formative)

**Due: Group Task Sheet with task # 3 and # 4  
Reading Logs Ch 1-2**

**Class 3: March 5:**

**(\*Read Chapter Three-- Developing Objectives)**

- Group Discussion of Chapter One, Two and Three
- Work Independently in groups—**tasks due (rough draft):**
  - #5 Scope and sequence (matrix) for the time frame of the ITU

**Due: Group Task Sheet with task # 5  
Reading Logs Ch. 3**

**Class 4: March 19:**

- Work Independently in groups--**tasks due (rough draft):**
  - #6 Activities, logistics, resources for each discipline including specific technology applications
  - #7 Justification/explanation of how these strategies will be supportive of principle of inclusive education including linguistically and culturally diverse students (**specific attention to SDAIE but also other special needs such as physical challenged etc.**)

**Due: Group Task Sheet with task #6 and # 7**

**Class 5: April 16:**

**(\*Read Chapters Four and Five— Assessing and Evaluating and Examples of ITU's)**

- Group Discussion of Chapter 4 and 5
- Work Independently in groups---**tasks due (rough draft):**
  - #8 individual discipline lesson plans (each person must write at least one lesson plan)

**Due: Group Task Sheet with task #8  
Reading Logs Ch. 4-5**

### **Class 6: April 30:**

- #9a Overview of presentation including # 9b (outline of Action Research plan for evaluation of ITU). Small group round robin.
- Any revisions to former sections should be discussed/considered with group

**Due: Group Task Sheet with task #9**

### **Class 7 & 8: May 14 & 28:**

#### **(Final Presentations)**

- #10 Group oral presentation
- Collection of final written ITU that includes a self-evaluation of group process skills (about 15 minutes will be allotted for each teams' presentation).
- Final written exam of ITU process

**Due: Group Task Sheet with task #10 (please give me a personal copy before your presentation begins)**

**Final Grade:** based on 100 pts.

- 1) **Reading logs/discussion of Chapters 1-5 = 10 pts.**
- 2) **Final exam on ITU implementation process = 10 pts**
- 3) **Individual formative grade on ITU development (10 [tasks@2pts](#) each) = 20 pts.**
- 4) **Individual summative grade on final presentation and written ITU = 20 + 20 = 40 pts.**
- 5) **Group summative grade on final presentation and written ITU = 20 pts.**

### **Assessments/ Requirements:**

Attendance at all classes is essential to receiving intermediate assessments and appropriate penalties will be assessed for unexcused absences.

### **Grading:**

There are 100 points possible (assuming the Action Research project is complete). The final grading scale is:

A = 93-100	C+ = 78=79
A- = 90-92	C- = 73-77
B+ = 88-89	D = 60-69
B = 83-87	F = 0-59
B- = 80-82	