

**CEDAR CREST COLLEGE  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

**EDU 317: CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR SCIENCE  
IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (K-6)  
SPRING – 2009  
Wednesdays 7:00PM – 9:30PM**

**Instructor:** Mrs. Megan Basile  
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**Office Hours:** Available by appointment

**\*Please note that I will only correspond via Cedar Crest email accounts.**

**Course Description:** Students are exposed to the various methodologies to successfully teach science to elementary students, integrating hands on activities, and challenging extensions to standard lessons/activities. The classes are modeled on the constructivist approach to science education. This course includes a review of science concepts that relate to the many misconceptions held by elementary students. National and PDE standards are used extensively for curriculum and assessment development.

**Course Outcomes:**

1. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the inquiry-based science model.
2. The student will be able to plan an inquiry-based science lesson using the CCC lesson plan format.
3. The student will use a science notebook and will develop a rubric to assess the use of science notebooks.
4. The students will research a topic related to elementary science education.
5. The student will demonstrate how to integrate technology into science teaching.
6. The student will demonstrate an understanding of assessment as related to the area of science.
7. The student will demonstrate an understanding of scientific terminology and concepts.

**Required Texts:**

Martin, R., Sexton, C., Franklin, T., Gerlovich, J., McElroy, D. (2009). *Teaching Science for all Children An Inquiry Approach* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.) Boston, MA: Pearson.

**Suggested Readings:** Students will be encouraged to investigate a variety of resources pertaining to particular topics throughout the course. Students will be directed toward topics relevant to subject matter addressed during the course.

**Note: Students are required to use APA style for all assignments that include documentation of sources. You may want to consider purchasing the manual: *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. Be sure to buy the most recent edition.**

**Student Accommodations:** Students with documented learning disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss these needs with their professors during the first two weeks of class. Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations should contact the Advising Center during the first week of class.

**Honor Philosophy:** The Cedar Crest Honor Philosophy is based upon the principle that, as a self-governing body, students have the ability to create an atmosphere of trust and support. Within this environment, individuals are empowered to make their own decisions, develop personal regard for the system under which they live, and achieve a sense of integrity and judgment that will guide them through life.

The formal honor code adopted by CCC as outlined in the college catalogue and student handbook will be followed in this course. Appropriate behavior is implicit in the Cedar Crest College Honor Code.

**Classroom Protocol:** Appropriate classroom behavior is implicit in the Cedar Crest College Honor Code. Such behavior is defined and guided by complete protection for the rights of all students and faculty to a courteous, respectful classroom environment. That environment is free from distractions such as late arrivals, early departures, inappropriate conversations, and any other behaviors that might disrupt instruction and/or compromise students' access to their Cedar Crest College education. In order to minimize distractions, please turn cell phones off during class.

**Attendance and Late Arrivals:** As part of your learning responsibility, your attendance at all class meetings is expected and a vital part of the learning process. If vacations, athletic activities, professional duties, medical appointments, or any other conflicts prevent you from fully attending all classes, you are strongly encouraged to take this course during another semester. If an illness or emergency occurs during the semester, you are responsible for contacting the course instructor to make up work missed. Due to the interactive nature of this course, however, there will be assignments that you will not be able to make up if you are absent. Your attendance and participation will be scored using the professional rubric provided with this document.

**Late Assignments:** Assignments are due at the beginning of each class period. If an assignment is handed in after this time, including email, it is considered late. Late assignments will be lowered a full letter grade for each day they are overdue unless other arrangements are approved in advance by the professor.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is regarded as a failure to comply with the college honor code. Therefore, any student who is documented as cheating on an assignment, plagiarizing or otherwise breaking the honor code will receive an "F" for that assignment. This policy includes plagiarizing by not citing the material accurately. Please use the APA manual for accuracy. Students may not use the same paper, unit, or lesson for more than one course without the permission (in writing) of the instructor.

## Course Requirements:

1. **Lesson Plans** (100 points): You will develop two lesson plans (one primary and one intermediate) following the CCC format. Each lesson must include some type of formal assessment. You will receive detailed information about the development of the lesson plan in class. Each lesson plan will be worth 50 points. See rubric for scoring guide.
2. **Presentation of Lesson** (100 points): You will choose one of your written lesson plans and present it to the class. You will explain how the activity is related to the standards and objectives of the lesson and teach the activity to the class. You will have 15 minutes to present this lesson. You will be graded by your peers and the professor. See rubric for scoring guide.
3. **Da Vinci Science Center Review** (50 points): You will visit the **Da Vinci Science Center** located on the campus of Cedar Crest College and view the exhibits. You will write a three page paper reviewing three areas located in the Center and describe how you could use this experience to benefit your students' learning.
4. **Tests** (90 points): There will be three tests throughout the semester. These tests may include multiple choice, matching, and essay questions. The tests will be based on the reading assignments from the *Teaching Science for All Children* text. Each test will be worth 30 points.
5. **Website Review** (50 points): You will review 2 websites dedicated to science education. The websites may be designed either for teacher or for student use. You will evaluate the science content, arrangement/organization, ease of use, loading time, visuals, and documentation. See rubric for scoring guide.
6. **Notebook** (30 points): You will keep a notebook throughout the course of notes on science concepts, lab activities, questions and reflections.
7. **Notebook/Inquiry Lesson Rubric** (10 points): You will develop a rubric to assess either student learning as recorded in a science notebook or student performance and learning during an inquiry activity. Your rubric should include at least 3 areas of focus and 3 levels within each area.
8. **Professionalism Rubric** (70 points): It is essential that you participate in all class discussions and activities in order to understand the course material. Reading assignments must be completed to participate in class discussions and activities.

## Total Points: 500

|         |    |           |    |
|---------|----|-----------|----|
| 94-100% | A  | 74-76%    | C  |
| 90-93%  | A- | 70-73%    | C- |
| 87-89%  | B+ | 67-69%    | D+ |
| 84-86%  | B  | 63-66%    | D  |
| 80-83%  | B- | Below 63% | F  |
| 77-79%  | C+ |           |    |

**Please Note:** Any student receiving a grade below a B in any education course will have to re-take the course to be certified in the State of Pennsylvania. This is a Pennsylvania Department of Education requirement.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

The professor reserves the right to make changes in the course schedule to meet the needs of students, including developing prerequisite knowledge/skills, reviewing/re-teaching content, etc.

| Date | Topics   | Assignment(s) Due  |
|------|--|--|
| 1/21 | Introduction<br>The Nature of Science<br>Inquiry Science Lessons                         | Read Chapter 1   |
| 1/28 | How Children Learn Science<br>Inquiry Science Lessons                                    | Read Chapter 2<br>Print a copy of the PDE Science and Technology Standards( <a href="http://www.pde.state.pa.us/">www.pde.state.pa.us/</a> ) |
| 2/4  | Planning for the Inquiry-Based Classroom<br>Inquiry Science Lessons                      | Read Chapter 4   |
| 2/11 | Inquiry Methods that Construct Understanding<br>Inquiry Science Lessons                  | Read Chapter 5<br><b>Test #1 (Chapters 1,2,4,5)</b>  |
| 2/18 | Integrating Technology<br>Inquiry Science Lessons  | Read Chapter 8<br><b>Website Review Due</b>  |
| 2/25 | Questions that Foster Scientific Inquiry<br>Inquiry Science Lessons                      | Read Chapter 6   |
| 3/4  | Assessment<br>Inquiry Science Lessons  | Read Chapter 7<br><b>Lesson Plan Due</b>   |
| 3/11 | Spring Break   |  |
| 3/18 | Integrating Science with Other Disciplines<br>Inquiry Science Lessons                    | Read Chapter 9<br><b>Test #2 (Chapters 8,6,7,9)</b>  |
| 3/25 | Improving Science Learning for Diverse Learners<br>Inquiry Science Lessons               | Read Chapter 3<br><b>Lesson Plan Due</b>   |
| 4/1  | No Class- Da Vinci Science Center Visit  |  |
| 4/8  | Designing and Managing a Safe Inquiry-Based Science Classroom<br>Inquiry Science Lessons | Read Chapter 10  |
| 4/15 | Materials and Resources<br>Inquiry Science Lessons                                       | Read Chapter 11<br><b>Review of Da Vinci Center Due</b>  |
| 4/22 | Inquiry Science Lessons  | Read journal articles<br><b>Test #3 (Chapters 3,10,11)</b>   |
| 4/29 | Course Evaluation  | Read journal articles<br><b>Science Notebooks and Rubrics Due</b>  |