Eastern Illinois University

Course Proposal

STG 5131A, 5131B, 5132A, 5132B, 5133A, 5133B
Topics in Education

1. **Catalog Description**
   b. Title: Topics in Education
   c. Credit: 1 to 3 semester hours
   d. Short Title: TOPICS IN EDUC
   e. Course Description: A study of topics in education designed to relate research to practice (e.g., research-based instructional strategies such as "Engaged Learning").

2. **Outline of Topics**
   See attached example for proposed special topics course in: "Engaged Learning."

3. **Implementation**
   a. The TOPICS courses will be assigned to faculty with expertise in the area.
   b. Texts: No single text can be identified which approaches the course content as envisioned. Portions of texts together with articles gleaned from contemporary journals and other sources would be identified as each topic emerges.

   Supplementary materials: Current professional journals and other resource materials.

   c. Special projects and costs: Additional cost may be necessary depending on the topic.
   d. Term to be first offered: Summer 2001 and thereafter on demand.

4. **Rationale**
   a. Purpose and Need: The staff development of inservice educators (teachers, special educators, principals, psychologists, etc.) requires dynamic coursework at the post bachelor's degree level to enhance the broad repertoire of effective instructional approaches to increase academic and social growth of all learners in the educational setting. As new, research-supported educational interventions appear in the dynamic field of education, a topics course which can provide an in-depth study and application of these recent interventions will meet the needs of practicing education professionals in remaining current in the field. As the mission of Eastern Illinois University continues to include the preparation and development of educators, this topics coursework will provide critical intervention competencies for the development of master teachers to work with the children and youth of Illinois and the nation.

   b. Justification of Course Level and Prerequisites:
   This topic course will provide an in-depth study and application of current and emerging research knowledge on critical intervention areas. This course is designed to be a part of a sequence of courses that enrolled educators, who are individuals who have initial and standard licensure to teach, are preparing to
seek a Master license through the State of Illinois and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

c. Similarity to Existing Courses:
This course does not duplicate any existing course at Eastern Illinois University but rather reflects similar topics courses offered by other departments.

d. Required or Elective:
This course will apply as an elective for the inservice professional in education.

5. **Community College Transfer:**
A community college course will not be judged equivalent to this course.

6. **Date approved by the Department of Student Teaching:** -3-2000

7. **Date approved by the College of Education and Professional Studies Curriculum Committee:** 4-24-2000

8. **Date approved by the Council on Graduate Studies:** 9/19/2000
Example of a Topics Course

1. **Course Description:**
   Student Teaching 5131, 5132, 5133. Topics in Education: Engaged Learning. (1-3)
   TOPICS: ENGAG LRN. A study of the nature of learning in a heterogeneous setting and the "Engaged Learning" research base. This course has implications for teaching, supervision, and instructional systems design in education.

2. **Course Outline:**

   I. Course Introduction (2 hours)
      A. Scope of Content
      B. Course Requirements

   II. Knowledge Base on Engaged Learning (5 hours)
      A. Heterogeneous Grouping
      B. Need for Engaged Learning
      C. Principles of Engaged Learning
      D. Efficacy of Engaged Learning

   III. Engaged Learning Strategies (17 hours)
      A. Identifying instructional goals and objectives
      B. Determining grouping format
      C. Clarifying the task, goal structure and activity
      D. Systematic monitoring of academic and social skills performance
      E. Evaluation and the group process

   IV. Classroom Application of Engaged Learning (17 hours)
      A. Primary school setting
      B. Intermediate school setting
      C. Middle school setting
      D. High school setting
      E. Special education setting

   V. Implications of Engaged Learning (4 hours)
      A. Teaching
      B. Supervision
      C. Teacher preparation
      D. Academic achievement
      E. Social skills development

   **Evaluation:**
   Student learning will be evaluated through classroom participation/simulation, a videotape of implementation of an engaged learning activity, and a reflective journal-special to this classroom project.

3. **Implementation:**
   a. This course will be assigned initially to faculty with expertise in the area.
   b. Texts: See new course proposal.
   c. Special Projects and Costs: No additional costs are anticipated.
4. **Rationale:**
   a. **Purpose and Need:** This course will focus on an in-depth study and application of the current and emerging research knowledge on Engaged Learning. Effective education of children/youth requires educational professionals to expand their repertoire of instructional interventions to meet both the academic and social needs of learners during development and into adult life. Engaged Learning is a research-supported instructional intervention designed to enhance the scholarship and interpersonal competencies of all learners in a variety of educational settings.
   
   b. **Justification of Course Level and Prerequisites:** See new course proposal.
   
   c. **Similarity to Existing Courses:** See new course proposal.
   
   d. **Required or Elective:** This course will apply as an elective.