

***NELMS Active Learning Classrooms: Everyone's Invited
Institute & Course
2009-2010***

Plymouth State University of the University System of NH

Graduate Credit is earned through Plymouth State University in Plymouth, NH. It is an accredited institution offering both a Masters Degree and Advanced Degrees in Education.

Title: Active Learning Classrooms: Everyone's Invited Institute

Graduate Credits: 2.0

Semester: Summer 2009, Spring 2010

Professor: Dr. Robert C. Spear

Course Description:

This course is designed for participating middle level educators who want to develop tools to more effectively teach young adolescents. Participants will have certain latitude to investigate topics and strategies that will have the greatest individual meaning. Practical, meaningful and appropriate learning practices are the foundations of the courses.

Evaluation:

Two Credits - Course requirements (total of 30 points)

- ◆ Attend the two day Conference (**12 points**)
- ◆ Keep a personal journal of the conference (**9 points**)
- ◆ Develop an annotated bibliography of required readings (**9 points**)

JOURNAL: Write a journal to Dr. Spear in which you share your thoughts, observations, questions, and reflections that emerge before and from the Summer Institute experience. Reflect on each activity and include the presenter, the topic and the central message of the presentation (**3 points**). Also, include the conversations and professional relations that you develop during the three days (**3 points**). Please reflect on the total Summer Institute experiences as a whole and make commitments to yourself regarding your practice in the upcoming months (**3 points**). These thoughts, questions, and reflections are part of the formal evaluation. They should reflect a 'churning and learning' thoughtfulness.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY: Complete an *annotated* bibliography of required readings. (**9 points**)

Course Objectives: Active Learning Classrooms: Everyone's Invited Institute

Design for the Creation of Active, Hands-On Relevant Learning

We will explore all aspects of developing an instructional plan from accessing and building prior knowledge to making connections across the curriculum. The focus of our exploration will be designing strategies that engage each student in the processes of learning. *Objectives include:*

- Be able to recognize the power of research-based practices in increasing learning and achievement
- Have the ability to Infuse Multiple Intelligence and Learning Styles considerations into our instructional plans

- Be able to develop higher order thinking skills in an intentional manner
- Learn how to increase the use of literacy strategies across the curriculum
- Learn how to incorporate information literacy and Web 2.0 tools in everyday learning
- Learn why rehearsing for success enables students to develop both academic competence and confidence

Required Texts:

- ◆ *Everyone's Invited! Interactive Strategies That Engage Young Adolescents*, Spencer, NMSA 2008
- ◆ *Meet Me in the Middle: Becoming an Accomplished Middle-Level Teacher*, Wormeli, Stenhouse & NMSA, 2001
- ◆ *This We Believe: Successful Schools for Young Adolescents*, NMSA
- ◆ *This We Believe in Action: Implementing Successful Middle Level Schools*, NMSA

Grading Scale:

94 – 100	A	80 – 82.9	B-
90 – 93.9	A-	77 – 79.9	C+
87 – 89.9	B+	73 – 76.9	F
83 – 86.9	B		

DEADLINES: All course requirements must be fulfilled by December 1, 2009 for a January 2010 posting, or by April 28, 2010 for a May 2010 posting.

Cost Information: Graduate credits are offered at a rate of **\$145 per credit** plus a **\$25** administrative fee. Graduate credits are available only to NELMS professional development event attendees.

Registration: Please return the PSU registration form with your full tuition payment along with a copy of your conference receipt from NELMS for enrollment for graduate credits.

Mail graduate registration, payment and receipt to:

**Plymouth State University
College of Graduate Studies – MSC 11
ATTN: NELMS Registrations
17 High Street
Plymouth, NH 03264-1595**

If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Gallagher our liaison at (978) 887-6263 X 17 e-mail at sgallagher@nelms.org