

NELMS Young Adolescent Learners 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: Young Adolescent Learners 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: Young Adolescent Learners Institute

Designed to Apply Young Adolescent Developmental Knowledge to Each Classroom

Develop a clear vision of what comprises “effective teaching at the middle level” and learn strategies that address many challenges classroom educators face every day. This information will be your foundation for making solid decisions throughout your career. *Objectives include:*

- Knowing the Developmental Characteristics and Traits of Young Adolescents
- How to Motivate Young Adolescents
- Using a Variety of Age-appropriate Instructional Practices and Strategies
- Learning Effective Classroom Management Techniques
- Knowing and Applying Relevant Brain Research

Required Texts:

- ◆ *Meet Me in the Middle: Becoming an Accomplished Middle-Level Teacher*, Wormeli, Stenhouse & NMSA, 2001
- ◆ *Meet Me In the Middle: Becoming an Accomplished Middle School Teacher*, Wormeli, Stenhouse
- ◆ *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