

NELMS Differentiated Instruction & Critical Thinking
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: ***Differentiated Instruction & Assessment with Rick Wormelli***

Graduate Credits: 2.0 or 3.0

Semester: 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 36 points)

- ◆ Attend both days of the Conference (**18 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 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**). Reflect on your total experience and make commitments to yourself regarding your educational practice in the future. Your thoughts, questions, and reflections are part of the formal evaluation (**3 points**).

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

Three Credits - Course Requirements (total of 54 points)

- ◆ Attend both days of the Conference (**18 points**)
- ◆ Keep a personal journal of the conference (**9 points**)
- ◆ Design, carry out, and create a “**professional paper**” of a substantive school-based project that applies knowledge gained by carrying out the project.
- ◆ Include an annotated bibliography of required and additional chosen readings. (**27 points**)

Requirements Include:

Abstract (4 points): Submit a brief but complete abstract of the project for approval. Please discuss, via phone or email, your project with Dr. Spear. The abstract is a one-page abstract

that describes the substance of your project (**1 pt**). Describe its setting and its relationship to current programs and practices (**1 pt**). Explain how you, as an educational practitioner, fit into the setting (**1 pt**). Describe your role with respect to the project itself (**1 pt**).

Professional Paper Includes:

- ◆ **Challenge and Opportunity (12 points):** Describe the specific focus/goals of your project (**2 points**) and what problem or opportunity you are addressing (**2 points**). Explain why you chose to respond to this opportunity both in terms of your school's needs and your individual needs (**2 points**). Please describe the project as it unfolds, the results of the project, and the criteria used to judge the project (**6 points**).
- ◆ **NELMS Link (2 points):** Explain the connection between your project and the content of your Institute experiences.
- ◆ **Readings (2 points):** It must be clear from the content of the paper that you understand and have completed all of your required readings.
- ◆ **Annotated Bibliography (7 points):** Complete an *annotated* bibliography of required and a minimum of five additional readings. The additional readings must be related to your project.
- ◆ **Journal (8 points):** Write a journal in which you share your thoughts, observations, questions, and reflections that emerge before and from the Institute experience. Reflect on each activity and include the topic and the central messages of the presentation (**2 points**). Include the professional conversations and relations that you develop during the three days (**2 points**). Reflect on your Institute experiences and indicate how you will put what you have learned into practice in your own educational work in the month to come (**4 points**). Your thoughts, questions, and reflections are part of the formal evaluation.
- ◆ **Writing** should be consistent with and will be assessed using Plymouth State University Graduate Studies Writing Assessment Rubric

Course Objectives: Differentiated Instruction & Assessment

Designed for Educators to Increase Their Differentiated Instructional Skills

This Institute will guide participants from planning to practice of "DI". Participants should bring a teacher's edition and any ancillary materials so that they can plan lessons or a unit of work. Teams will have the opportunity to develop an integrated unit of work. *Objectives include:*

- Be Able to Move From Plans to Practice
- Understand and Apply Differentiation Approaches
- Using and Understanding the Application of Bloom's Taxonomy
- Know Appropriate Structure & Strategies of a "DI" Lesson and Classroom
- Develop the Picture of What does it look like?
- Know the Steps in Planning an Effective DI lesson/Unit
- Know About and Apply Tiering, R.A.F.T. Lessons, Cubing, and Anchor Activities

Required Texts:

- ◆ *Differentiated Instruction; Planning to Practice*, Wormeli, Stenhouse & NMSA, 2007
- ◆ *Meet Me in the Middle: Becoming an Accomplished Middle-Level Teacher*, Wormeli, Stenhouse & NMSA, 2001

◆ *This We Believe: Keys to Educating Young Adolescents*, 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: One year to complete work from registration date or will receive an incomplete. Two day events in 2010 should be fulfilled by November 1, 2010 for a December 30, 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

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