

Active Learning Strategies: Inviting Success in Middle Level Classrooms
Institute & Course
2010-2011

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 Strategies: Inviting Success in Middle Level Classrooms*

Graduate Credits: 2.0 or 3.0

Semester: Summer 2010, Winter, 2011

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 all three 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 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**)

Three Credits - Course Requirements (total of 54 points)

- ◆ Attend all three 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 before the Summer Institute. Please discuss, via phone or email, your project with Dr. Spear prior

to the beginning of Summer Institute. 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: 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

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, 2010 for a January 2011 posting, or by April 28, 2011 for a May 2011 posting.

Cost Information: Graduate credits are offered at a rate of **\$155 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