

George Mason University
College of Education & Human Development/Graduate School of Education
Secondary Teacher Education Program



EDUC 422/522 001, Foundations of Secondary Education

Instructor: Jean Radcliff Young, PhD

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Spring 2014 Class Meetings*

Mondays 4:30 – 7:10 PM, January 27 – May 5, 2014

Fairfax Campus: Krug Hall 7

Co-Requisite: 15 hours school-based clinical field experience

***Please note that due to the nature of this course, our class will not meet on campus for every scheduled session. As stated in this syllabus, group meetings and/or discussions online will be required. Asynchronous meetings based on group-led presentations will be delivered via Blackboard. The dates for online activities are as follows: 2/17, 3/3, 3/24, 4/7 and 4/21.**

Course Description

Foundations of Secondary Education (EDUC 422/522) is a graduate course which offers students an analysis of philosophical assumptions, curriculum issues, learning theories, and history associated with current teaching styles. This course further emphasizes applications to all disciplines taught in secondary schools and examines current educational trends and issues in relation to sociology of secondary school settings.

Relationship to Program Goals and Professional Organizations

Through course assignments and formal and informal commentary, Foundations of Secondary Education emphasizes the basic premise and following standards developed by the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC):

INTASC: An effective teacher must be able to integrate content knowledge with the specific strengths and needs of students to assure that *all* students learn and perform at high levels.

1. The teacher understands the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline he or she teaches and can create learning experiences that make these aspects of subject matter meaningful to students.
2. The teacher understands how students learn and develop and can provide learning opportunities that support a student's intellectual, social, and personal development.
3. The teacher understands how students differ in their approaches to learning and creates instructional opportunities that are adapted to diverse learners.
4. The teacher uses an understanding of individual and group motivation and behavior to create a learning environment that encourages positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation.
6. The teacher uses knowledge of effective verbal, non-verbal, and media communication techniques and appropriate technology to foster active inquiry, collaboration, and supportive interaction in the classroom.
9. The teacher is a reflective practitioner who continually evaluates the effects of his or her choices and actions on others and who actively seeks out opportunities to grow professionally.

Student Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students will

- Acknowledge and evaluate the varied, competing, and changing purposes of American public education (SOCIAL JUSTICE);

- have an introductory knowledge of the foundations of secondary education in the United States, including the history and sociology of schools, philosophical assumptions and learning theories underlying instructional practices, and curricular trends/issues (RESEARCH-BASED PRACTICE);
- recognize the diversity in American schools, especially as it regards race, ethnicity, gender, social class, language, and ability, (ETHICAL LEADERSHIP, COLLABORATION), INTASC Standards, II, III;
- be aware of the systematic and differing educational opportunities and outcomes available to students, and the forces which alter existing practices in schools (SOCIAL JUSTICE, INNOVATION);
- analyze teaching behaviors and categorize them according to their relationships to research-based practice and major educational philosophies (SOCIAL JUSTICE, COLLABORATION), INTASC Standards II, III;
- examine the relationships among philosophy, curriculum issues, learning theories, history, and teaching styles (RESEARCH-BASED PRACTICE);
- take positions on selected issues in education and analyze how those positions relate to teaching style preferences (COLLABORATION);
- state their own philosophical positions in regard to the following questions:
 - What is the nature of one subject matter area you wish to teach?
 - What are the possibilities of that subject matter area for guiding students toward meaningful learning experiences?
 - What kinds of teaching behaviors will you exhibit to exemplify your philosophical position?
 - What approaches to classroom management do you prefer?

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Student Expectations

Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].

Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].

Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].

Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.

Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behavior and dispositions. See gse.gmu.edu for a listing of these dispositions. The Virginia Department of Education and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education promote standards of professional competence and dispositions. Dispositions are values, commitments, and professional ethics that influence behaviors toward students, families, colleagues, and all members of the learning community. The Graduate School of Education expects students, faculty, and staff to exhibit professional dispositions through a:

Commitment to the profession

- Promoting exemplary practice

Excellence in teaching and learning

- Advancing the profession

- Engagement in partnerships

Commitment to honoring professional ethical standards

- Fairness

- Honesty

- Integrity

Trustworthiness

- Confidentiality

- Respect for colleagues and students

Commitment to key elements of professional practice

- Belief that all individuals have the potential for growth and learning

- Persistence in helping individuals succeed

- High standards

- Safe and supportive learning environments

Systematic planning
Intrinsic motivation
Reciprocal, active learning
Continuous, integrated assessment
Critical thinking
Thoughtful, responsive listening
Active, supportive interactions
Technology-supported learning
Research-based practice
Respect for diverse talents, abilities, and perspectives
Authentic and relevant learning
Commitment to being a member of a learning community
Professional dialogue
Self-improvement
Collective improvement
Reflective practice
Responsibility
Flexibility
Collaboration
Continuous, lifelong learning
Commitment to democratic values and social justice
Understanding systemic issues that prevent full participation
Awareness of practices that sustain unequal treatment or unequal voice
Advocate for practices that promote equity and access
Respects the opinion and dignity of others
Sensitive to community and cultural norms
Appreciates and integrates multiple perspectives

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS:

All students must abide by the following:

Professional Dispositions: Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

- Students are expected to exhibit professional behavior and dispositions. See <http://gse.gmu.edu/facultystaffres/profdisp.htm> for a listing of these dispositions.
- Students must follow the guidelines of the University Honor Code. See <http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/> for the full honor code.

Please note that:

“Plagiarism encompasses the following:

1. Presenting as one's own the words, the work, or the opinions of someone else without proper acknowledgment.
2. Borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgment.”

(from Mason Honor Code online at <http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>)

Paraphrasing involves taking someone else’s ideas and putting them in your own words. When you paraphrase, you need to cite the source using APA format.

When material is copied word for word from a source, it is a direct quotation. You must use quotation marks (or block indent the text) and cite the source.

Electronic tools (e.g., SafeAssign) may be used to detect plagiarism if necessary.

Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct are treated seriously and may result in disciplinary actions.

Campus Resources

The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students’ personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].

The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>].

Emergency Notification

The university utilizes a communication system to reach all students, faculty, and staff with emergency information (e.g., in case of severe weather). You can be sure that you are registered with the Mason Alert system by visiting <https://alert.gmu.edu>. An emergency poster can also be found in each Mason classroom. Information about Mason emergency response plans can be found at <http://www.gmu.edu/service/cert>.

If the professor must cancel a class due to inclement weather, etc., she will send an email to all students via your mason account. Please check your e-mail prior to class during bad weather.

Required Texts

Halse Anderson, L. (2009). *Speak (Tenth Anniversary Edition)*. New York: Penguin Group

ISBN: 978-0-14-242473-6

Lieberman, A. (Foreword) (2003). *The Jossey-Bass Reader on Teaching*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass/

Wiley. ISBN: 0-7879-6240-6

Spring, J. (2012). *American Education* (16th ed). Boston, MA: McGraw Hill, ISBN: 978-0-07-802451-1

Additional readings may be provided and will be available on-line (via Blackboard

<http://mymason.gmu.edu>) Please become familiar with the Blackboard platform if you have not already done so.

Course Requirements

Performance Based Assessment on TaskStream

Every student registered for any Secondary Education course with a required performance-based assessment (PBA) is required to submit this assessment to TaskStream (regardless of whether a course is an elective, a onetime course or part of an undergraduate minor). **In this course, the Education Philosophy paper* (see description below) is your PBA.** Evaluation of your performance-based assessment will also be provided using TaskStream. Failure to submit the assessment to TaskStream will result in the course instructor reporting the course grade as Incomplete (IN). Unless this grade is changed upon completion of the required TaskStream submission, the IN will convert to an F nine weeks into the following semester. For those new to TaskStream, information and tutorials can be found at <http://cehd.gmu.edu/api/taskstream>.

General

All assignments should be turned in on the due date indicated in the schedule below. All papers must adhere to APA 6th edition formatting using 12-point Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins, double-spaced. All papers should include a bibliography listing all sources cited. Writing quality (including mechanics, organization, and content) is figured into the overall points for each writing assignment, so please proofread carefully. Late papers and projects will not be accepted without penalty, excepting extraordinary circumstances. All assignment will be submitted via MyMason/Blackboard. Please be sure you have a working understanding of this platform.

Note: I reserve the right to add, alter, or omit any assignment as necessary during the course.

Participation (15 pts)

By working together in this course we have formed a new community. This community will be rooted in mutual respect and shared responsibility; these foundations translate into active participation in all group activities and online meetings. Your participation, thoughtfulness, clarity, and active sharing of responsibility for our classroom community will affect your grade. Absences and tardiness will impact your grade. Students should attend every class, however in case of emergency, each student is allowed one class absence, no explanation required, **excluding the last class, which is mandatory**. For each class you are absent beyond this one session, three points will be deducted from your class participation points up to a total of 15 points. If you must be late to or miss a scheduled class/fieldwork session, please contact me and/or your mentor teacher prior to class time; either by email – jyoung28@gmu.edu, or by text (540-273-2743). Regarding the field experience, a minimum of 15 school-based hours is mandatory. You are expected to be at your fieldwork site as scheduled, and remain for the duration of the class. Please dress professionally, and turn off all mobile phones, computers, and pagers when you enter your fieldwork setting.

Reading Reflection Papers (25 points each)

Students enrolled in EDUC 522 will be required to complete **three** three-four page (double-spaced) papers focused on synthesis of chapter readings in your *Jossey-Bass Reader on Teaching text*, and other media. **Students enrolled in EDUC 422 will complete two of the three required papers; Reflection Paper #1 is required, then select one more.** Each paper will require you to seek connections and themes presented in the readings. Specifically, this will include a combination of personal reflections on the provided topic, comments and insights provided by the source and relevant outside sources which enhance the comments and assertions made in your paper. Each paper will be assessed on a combination of the aforementioned components as well as overall writing quality, which includes adherence to writing specifications outlined in the APA 6th edition manual. A rubric for these assignments will be discussed and provided in class.

1. Reflection paper one: Review of chapters 9, 15 & 18 in *Teaching text* and *Lalee's Kin video*: Topic: **Seeking equality/equity: DUE on or before 3/6**
2. Reflection paper two: Review of chapters 1-3 in *Teaching text* and *Speak book*: Topic: **Challenges of the teaching profession: DUE on or before 3/27**
3. Reflection paper three: Review of chapters 13, 14, 16 and 17 in *Teaching text*: Topic: **Exemplary teaching, what does it look like and why is it so difficult to achieve: due on or before 4/22**

Current School Issues Topical Presentation (50 points total–30 points from group presentation, 20 points from participation in other four group presentations)

At the beginning of the semester you will be divided into groups for the purposes of developing a presentation to the class on a specific topic related to American public education. Each group will be assigned a date during which time an hour long presentation is expected to be delivered via an online forum of your choice. Each group is expected to:

1. employ some sort of presentation software (e.g. PowerPoint, webquest, wiki or other means) to present information on the given topic.
2. provide a discussion prompt(s) to course-mates via Blackboard
3. facilitate discussion and monitor responses to the above prompt.

Once prompt(s) is posted, course-mates will have up to three days to post their responses.

Each class member (other than group members) must post one original thread (approximately 150-300 words) and respond to two others (approximately 50-150 words).

As you organize the information to present, consider what prospective teachers need to know about your topic. Seek to make the content relevant and the prompts engaging.

Assessment from these group activities will come from the group presentation, effective monitoring of the Discussion Board, self/group assessment and participation in other group discussions.

DUE: Various dates throughout semester, depending on which group you are in.

Philosophy of Teaching Paper (45pts)

In five-six double-spaced pages, you will describe and illustrate your personal beliefs about teaching based on the teaching philosophies discussed in class. In your paper, address a minimum of five of the guiding questions found below. **EDUC 422 students will address a minimum of four of the guiding questions.** In addition, seek relevant outside sources for additional information and guidance. And finally, examine the standards of an effective teacher from INTASC (found on page one of your syllabus) as well as standards of learning for your content area (both state and national) to help guide you in the development of your teaching philosophy. You will be assessed on the aforementioned criteria in addition to the general writing rubric components from the reflection papers. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THIS ASSIGNMENT IS YOUR "PBA" FOR THIS COURSE. AS SUCH, YOU MUST SUBMIT IT TO TASKSTREAM AS WELL AS MYMASON.

National Content Organizations Websites:

Mathematics: National Council for Teachers of Mathematics (www.nctm.org)

Science: National Science Teachers Association (www.nsta.org)

English: National Council for Teachers of English (www.ncte.org)

Social Studies/History: National Council for the Social Studies (www.socialstudies.org)

Philosophy of Teaching Guiding Questions

- What is the purpose of schooling?
- What is the nature of the learner in the 21st century?
- What is the nature of one subject matter area you wish to teach?
- What are the possibilities of that subject matter area for guiding students toward meaningful learning experiences?
- What kinds of teaching behaviors will you exhibit to exemplify your philosophical position?
- What approaches to classroom management do you prefer?
- What learning theories do you most strongly identify with and why?
- What are your objectives as a teacher?
- What is the role of the teacher with respect to motivation, instruction, assessment, and challenge/support?
- What should teachers do to accommodate diverse learners?
- What teaching methods will you use to work toward your objectives?
- How you intend to measure your effectiveness at reaching your objectives?
- How will you continue to grow as a teacher during the first five years of your career? In the years following?

In addition to the questions above, you can add your own inquiries—be sure to identify the specific questions you address. Each of your answers to the questions you address—a minimum of five between those listed above and those you identify—may also be illustrated with examples from your fieldwork, including from your work with particular students if applicable. A grading rubric will be discussed and provided in class.

Field Experience Portfolio (65 points)

A school-based clinical field experience (15 hours minimum) is required for this course. The purpose of the field experience is to provide you with the opportunity to (1) connect the goals of the course to classroom/school practice, (2) gain exposure to a variety of classroom/school communities, and (3) promote critical, self-reflection about the practice of teaching and the culture of schools. You are expected to keep detailed field notes of your observations. Your mentor teacher will also complete a log indicating dates, times, subject area, grade levels.

Each day you are in your fieldwork site, you will record **field notes** of what you have observed, practices you appreciate, and questions you've considered as a result of your observations. Three of the most significant instances or episodes will be logged as "**Critical Incidents Reflections and Images**" (CIRIs). Follow the specific guidelines for these incidents as you record them and be ready to analyze the data you gather and discuss in class. As a part of each CIRI you should include a related artifact and/or image, which may be a picture/drawing of the incident, or an artifact that helps illustrate the episode (e.g.

document handed out to students). At the end of your field experience, you will use your journal and these CIRI forms to prepare a “Field Experience Portfolio.” In this project (a maximum of five –eight double-spaced pages), you will analyze and compare field notes in order to develop a paper that synthesizes your experience. Included in your paper will be analysis of your “critical incidents” and discussion of how curricula, instructional methods, and school culture influenced student success in the setting(s) you observed. This report should also include images, examples, and evidence from your field experience to illustrate the conclusions you draw.

GRADING for EDUC 522	GRADING FOR EDUC 422
95-100% (237.5-250 Points) A	90-100% (200-225 Points) A
90 - 94% (223-237 Points) A-	80-89% (180-199 Points) B
85 – 89% (212-222 Points) B	Below 80% (below 180 points) Not passing
80-84% (200-211 Points) B-	
Below 80% (below 200 points) Not passing	

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION

Assignment	Due	Point Value
Reflection Papers (EDUC 422 students complete #1 & 1 more)	Reflection paper one: Due 3/6 Reflection paper two: Due 3/27 Reflection paper three: Due 4/22	25 points each
School Issues Group Presentations	Group 1: 2/17 (student postings due 2/20, 11 PM) Group 2: 3/3 (student postings due 3/6 11 PM) Group 3: 3/24 (student postings due 3/27 11 PM) Group 4: 4/7 (student postings due 4/10, 11 PM) Group 5: 4/21 (student postings due 4/24 11 PM)	50
Teaching Philosophy Paper	Due 4/28	45
Field Experience Reflection Paper	Due 5/5	65
Participation		15
Total		250 pts. (522) 225 points (422)

COURSE SCHEDULE

*The Instructor may adjust weekly topics and readings as necessary.

TOPICS	CLASS/DATE	Reading Due	Assignment Due
-Introduction to course -Discussion of Group Presentations -Field Exper. Guidelines -Meet with Group 1	1 1/27	None	None
-The History and Purpose of Schooling -Introduction to <i>Speak</i> -Meet with Group 2	2 2/3	Chapter 1, 2 & 4 in American Education (AE) Chapter 15 in <i>Jossey-Bass Reader on Teaching (JB)</i> Preface-p. 72 in <i>Speak</i>	None
-Equality and Equity in Schooling -Meet with Group 3	3 2/10	Chapters 3 & 5 in AE Chapters 9 & 18 in J-B Pages 73-153 in <i>Speak</i>	None
-Online Class: Group 1 Presentation: The Purpose of Schooling	4 2/17	Presentation delivered via Blackboard Discussion Board posts	Student responses to presentation due by 2/20, 11:30 PM
-Educational Diversity Film: Lalee's Kin: The Legacy of Cotton -Meet with Group 4	5 2/24	Chapters 6 & 7 in AE Chapters 5 & 12 in JB	None
-Online Class: Group 2 Presentation: How Can Teachers Adapt to Changing Faces of Our Students?	6 3/3	Presentation delivered via Blackboard Discussion Board posts	Student responses to presentation due by 3/6, 11:30 PM Reflection Paper 1: Seeking Equality/Equity due by 3/6
-Spring Break No class!	3/10		
-Educational Philosophies & Learning Theories -Final review of <i>Speak</i> -Meet with Group 5	7 3/17	Chapters 1-3 & 6 in JB Pages 154-198 in <i>Speak</i>	

-Online Class: Group 3 Presentation: School Reform Movements	8	3/24	Presentation delivered via Blackboard Discussion Board	Student responses to presentation due by 3/27, 11:30 PM Reflection Paper 2: Challenges of the Teaching Profession due by 3/27
-Learning Theories, Teacher Behaviors, Instructional Practices	9	3/31	Chapters 7, 8 & 11 in JB	
-Online Class: Group 4 Presentation: Global Models of Schooling Student Engagement and Pedagogy	10	4/7	Presentation delivered via Blackboard Discussion Board	Student responses to presentation due by 4/10, 11:30 PM
-The Classroom Environment/School Climate	11	4/14	Chapters 10 & 11 in AE Chapters 13, 14, 16, 17 & 19 in JB	
-Online Class: Group 5 Presentation: School and Teacher Ethics: What Every New Teacher Should Know	12	4/21	Presentation delivered via Blackboard Discussion Board	Reflection Paper #3: Exemplary Teaching, What Does it Look Like and Why is it so Difficult to Achieve? Due by 4/22 Student responses to presentation due by 4/24, 11:30 PM
-Changes in Power and Control in Schools -The Profession of Teaching	13	4/28	Chapters 8, 9 in AE Chapters 4 & 10 in JB	(PBA) Teaching Philosophy Paper due by 4/29
-Last Class: -Share Field Experiences	14	5/5		Field Experience Portfolio

Appendix B

Field Experience Hours/Activities Log

You must complete a minimum of 15 hours of field experience, most of which will consist of observation, but may also involve interactions with individual students and small and large groups of students. Hours should be spread across a minimum of 5 sessions, with no single session lasting longer than 4 hours. Submit this signed log at the end of the course to Dr. Young.

GMU Student: _____

Mentor Teacher/School: _____

Subject Area/Grades: _____

Date	Activities Observed	Activities as Participant	Hours
			Total:

GMU Student Signature/Date _____ / _____

Mentor Signature/Date _____ / _____

Appendix C

Field Experience Letter



College of Education and Human Development

Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Phone: 540-273-2743 (mobile)

Dear educator:

My name is Jean Young, an adjunct professor of secondary education at George Mason University, and I write as the instructor for EDUC 422/522, "Foundations of Secondary Education." This course is taken by future secondary (grades 6-12) teachers, and as a part of the course students are required to complete 15 hours of field experience in grades 6-12. Specifically, these students are required to work with you and your students in a school setting at a grade level/subject area of their choice. You have been identified as a teacher in a school where the Mason student bearing this letter might complete these 15 hours of field experience. With this letter I hope to provide some information about the expectations for you and this Mason student, and invite you to work with this future teacher. EDUC 422/522 focuses on the philosophical assumptions, curriculum issues, learning theories, current educational trends/issues, and history associated with teaching styles and secondary schools. For most of the Mason students in this course, this is one of their first education courses. Thus, they will have widely varying levels of experience working with adolescents and young adults. Our expectations for this field experience includes the following:

- Mason students will complete a minimum of 15 hours of tutoring, observation with the possibility of general interaction with students in your classroom
- The goal of this experience is for the Mason student to become familiar with the general day-to-day efforts of youth and teachers in secondary settings, including learning styles, curricula, teaching strategies, teaching and learning challenges, management strategies, etc.
- I would hope that the Mason student would be given guidance from you regarding strategies to use to support students and their learning, and that, if appropriate, you may even allow the Mason student to plan some interventions of her or his own (with input from you)
- In addition, the Mason student might observe your classroom instruction, work with an individual or small group of students, work with an individual student or small groups on assignments or projects, check papers or tests and so forth.

Our hope is that this student will begin to work in your classroom by the sixth week of the Mason semester. Please note that field experiences should occur over a minimum of 4 visits to your

classroom/school, with a maximum length of any one visit of 4 hours. These schedule requirements are meant to encourage the Mason student to visit your classroom and work with you and your students with some frequency, for meaningful periods of time, over a substantial length of time. Ultimately you will be asked to sign off on the schedule of field experiences this student completed.

Please contact me with any questions you might have about this experience and also complete the agreement page attached to this letter. Thank you for your support of this Mason student and her/his development as a future teacher.

Sincerely,

Jean Young, PhD

Adjunct Professor of Education

George Mason University

jyoung28@gmu.edu

Appendix D: Critical Incidents, Reflections and Images (CIRIs)

This document is designed to prompt your observation experience. Please complete this form as you observe incidents and occurrences that you feel warrant attention. In those incidents, respond to the questions provided. Make an additional effort to document your critical incident with an artifact or image from the experience. This artifact may be a document from the lesson you observed, a photograph of a noteworthy part of the learning environment (e.g. bulletin board) or even a drawing you make to remember a classroom setup which contributed to the critical incident.

Name: _____ Date: _____

<p>Critical Incident Describe the highlight or lowlight you have noted</p>	
<p>Burning Issues/Questions What issues or questions arise from this critical incident?</p>	
<p>Practice What specific practice can you identify from this critical incident that will help inform your practice as a teacher?</p>	

Provide the image or copy of the artifact to this document for submission.

Appendix E

Field Experience Guidelines

*The following **suggested field experience activities** are designed to help you prepare for writing your paper analyzing teaching styles and classroom management preferences.*

- Observe a discussion session for the kinds of student participation that occur. How often are students asked to participate in divergent thinking? How often are students asked to participate in convergent thinking?
- Observe teaching techniques to determine which ones involve students in convergent thinking and which ones involve students in divergent thinking activities.
- Observe a lesson and determine how many academic disciplines the teacher has decided to use in that lesson. How are these various disciplines integrated?
- Observe a “discovery” lesson to determine the nature of the investigation and its outcome.
- Observe an “inquiry” lesson to determine the nature of the investigation and its outcome.
- Observe a lesson in which individualization of instruction is a major focus. How does the instructor plan for helping students at different skill levels improve their expertise?
- Talk with the cooperating teacher about the kinds of controversial issues which his/her students may be studying. Ask permission to observe a session in which a controversial issue is being examined so that you can determine what the issue is and its resolution(s).
- Talk with the cooperating teacher to find out which method(s) he/she prefers to use and why: “discovery,” “inquiry,” problem-solving discussion, simulations, lectures, directed reading of primary sources, directed reading of secondary sources, “practice” exercises, learning centers, cooperative learning, individual research, group research/labs, activities using software and/or the internet, etc.
- Observe rules and procedures to determine potential preferences for relationship/listening, confronting/contracting, or rules/consequences approaches to classroom management.

Notes: Please be sure to speak with your mentor teacher before you engage with individual or small groups of students in particular activities related to our EDUC 422/522 class. All proper names should be omitted from your reflections and other documentation shared with our class.