George Mason University College of Education and Human Development Advanced Studies in Teaching and Learning



EDCI 671 DL1: Innovations in Science Teaching

3 credits CRN 80883 Fall 2020 Asynchronous Online, August 24th to December 16th, 2020

Instructor: Nancy Holincheck, Ph.D., NBCT, Assistant Professor of STEM Education

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For COVID 19 procedures in Fall 2020:

Students, please be aware of and follow all policies and procedures for Mason's Safe Return to Campus:

https://www2.gmu.edu/Safe-Return-Campus

Prerequisites/Corequisites

None

University Catalog Course Description

Focuses on the development and selection of teaching materials that reflect concepts of technology innovation with an emphasis on middle and secondary school science. Offered by Graduate School of Education. May not be repeated for credit.

Note: This course was developed for the Advanced Studies in Teaching and Learning (ASTL) program and is open to any teacher. Pre-service teachers may enroll in the class; job-embedded assignments may be adapted for students who are not currently teaching in a classroom.

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered online (76% or more) using synchronous and asynchronous formats via Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on August 24th at 8:00 a.m.

Course delivery will be through mini-lecture, videos, structured collaborative reflective groups; discussion of readings and ongoing critical reflective practice will support learning experiences throughout the course and will complement your experiences and expose you to the major cultural perspectives; individual blogs and online journals based on topics aligned with national standards and program/learner outcomes will support learning. There will be scheduled synchronous Collaborate sessions during the semester.

Under no circumstances, may students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.

Technical Requirements

To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:

- High-speed Internet access with standard up-to-date browsers. To get a list of Blackboard's supported browsers see:
 - https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers
 - To get a list of supported operation systems on different devices see:
 - https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems
- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Students will need a headset microphone for use with the Blackboard Collaborate web conferencing tool.
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:
 - Adobe Acrobat Reader: https://get.adobe.com/reader/
 - Windows Media Player:
 https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player
 - o Apple Quick Time Player: www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

Expectations

- <u>Course Week:</u> Because asynchronous courses do not have a "fixed" meeting day, our week will start on Tuesday and finish on Monday.
 - We will have regularly scheduled synchronous Collaborate sessions throughout our semester. Attendance is required. You will be informed of the dates for synchronous meetings.
- Log-in Frequency:
 - Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials <u>daily</u>. In addition, students must log-in for all scheduled online synchronous meetings.
- Participation:
 - Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.
- <u>Technical Competence:</u>
 - Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.
- <u>Technical Issues:</u>
 - Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.
- Workload:
 - Please be aware that this course is **not** self-paced. Students are expected to meet *specific deadlines* and *due dates* listed in the **Class Schedule** section of this syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.

Instructor Support:

Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. Those unable to come to a Mason campus can meet with the instructor via telephone or web conference. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.

Netiquette:

The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words. Remember that you are not competing with classmates, but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.

Accommodations:

Online learners who require effective accommodations to ensure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

- Design and modify instruction based on theory, philosophy, educational research, and best practice.
- Incorporate findings from educational literature into instructional strategies to improve student learning.
- Create a learning environment in which all learners feel welcome and can be successful.
- Modify instruction and learning environment based on assessment of student learning problems and successes.
- Seek, implement, and evaluate best pedagogical practice within the context of a specific learning setting.
- Monitor the effects of instructional actions, selection of learning materials, and other instructional decisions on students' learning.
- Design and modify instruction that is responsive to differences among learners.

Professional Standards

EDCI 671 is part of the sequence of Advanced Studies in Teaching and Learning science courses for students seeking an advanced M.Ed. This course is also an Elective option for students in the Secondary Science Teacher Education The course builds on students' knowledge of their subject matter and from their current or former teaching experiences. The course focuses on teacher as a reflective practitioner in science teaching and learning and meeting the diverse needs of learners as called for by the *Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools* and *National Science Education Standards* and as outlined by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), and the National Boards for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). EDCI 671 helps teachers develop an inquiry stance on their classroom practice as science teachers through action research adapting inquiry-based lessons, formative and summative assessment and evaluation techniques, and a targeted focus on meeting the diverse needs of students. Additionally, this course was designed with a vision for accomplished teaching, as indicated by NBPTS Science Standards for Early Adolescence

(http://www.nbpts.org/userfiles/File/ea_science_standards.pdf) and Adolescence and Young Adulthood (http://www.nbpts.org/userfiles/File/aya_science_standards.pdf) the Five Core Propositions of the National Board for Professional Science Teaching:

- Proposition 1: Teachers are Committed to Students and Their Learning
- Proposition 2: Teachers Know the Subjects They Teach and How to Teach Those Subjects to Students

- Proposition 3: Teachers are Responsible for Managing and Monitoring Student Learning.
- Proposition 4: Teachers Think Systematically about Their Practice and Learn from Experience.
- Proposition 5: Teachers are Members of Learning Communities.

Required Texts

All resources will be available through Blackboard or the course Google site.

Full citations in APA format are required for all assignments in course.

Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time via Blackboard.

Assignments

	Points
Participation and Professionalism	30
Teaching and Assessment with Technology	10
Article/Resource Review	10
Development of Grant Proposal	
Donors Choose Set-up & Initial Project (10 pts)	
2 Journals (2.5 pts each)	
Final Proposal, including budget (15 pts)	
Lead-a-lab with technology activity	
Lesson Plan Draft Submitted for peer review	
Instruction video submitted for class	
Final Reflection	10
Total Points	100

Participation and Professionalism

This course operates with the assumption that knowledge is socially constructed and the most meaningful learning opportunities are those where you have the opportunity to offer and explore diverse perspectives with peers. To do this, you are expected to regularly contribute to classroom discussions and online discussion forums, as well as to genuinely 'listen' to peers as they do the same. Agreement is not mandatory; consideration and respect are. This means that you must be "present" throughout all online discussions and activities. It is expected that you connect, question, and extend the discussion in class and in blackboard discussion posts by citing readings, weekly content, and your personal experiences. In addition to completing assigned module work, participation and professionalism also includes quality participation in online discussion forums and .

We will use Blackboard to communicate regularly in this class. You will be asked to post assignments and responses, read classmates' postings, and actively participate in discussions. Blackboard serves as an important vehicle for discussing ongoing work on your major project with group members.

Teaching and Assessment with Technology

Technology should be integrated purposefully in your classroom—not added in just so you can say you teach with technology. For this assignment you will identify a technology that can be used *by students* in your classroom, then create a formative assessment of student learning related to that technology *or*

related to student learning using that technology. (Note: If at all possible, please identify technologies that are not currently in use in your classroom!) You will create a 2-3 minute video in which you present the technology AND the formative assessment and post it as directed on Blackboard.

Article/Resource Review & Critique

A valuable skill for an innovative science teacher is to be able to access information from the current science practitioner publications for use in the classroom. This assignment is given to develop your skills in locating and analyzing new technologies and/or instructional strategies to use in the classroom. For this assignment, you will identify an article in a practitioner publication (e.g. NSTA Publications: *Science & Children, Science Scope, The Science Teacher*; OR a subject specific publication like *The Biology Teacher* or *Physics Teacher*.) You will write a 2-4 page double-spaced article critique of the article. [Note that the selected article should be 3 pages or longer, and the article must be submitted with the critique.] The article critique should (a) briefly summarize the article, (b) provide details for how the topic is relevant to the elementary classroom and the teacher candidate's interests, and (c) critique the article. The critique should identify strengths and weaknesses of the lesson or ideas expressed in the article. At least one additional citation from the textbook, assigned articles, or other relevant sources should be included in the critique. The article should relate to teaching science in the teacher's subject and/or grade level. APA 7th edition citations & references should be included. See rubric at the end of the syllabus.

You will write a 2-3 page critique of the article and provide a 1-2 minute video review in our Blackboard course.

Development of Grant Proposal

We will explore multiple ways in which you might fund innovative technologies or activities for your class, including grant opportunities and crowd-sourcing like donors choose. There are three distinct components of the grant proposal:

- All students will create a donorschoose.com project—though you are NOT required to go
 "live" with it. If you are not able to create a donorschoose account, then we will set up a
 template to use that is similar to it. You may put anything on this project, as long as it is
 somehow related to your science teaching. You will share the project (or a pdf printout of
 the fake project) on blackboard.
- 2. During the semester you will write two short journal entries in which you identify an innovation you would like to incorporate into your classroom/teaching. This may be a technology (e.g. age-appropriate robots, iPads, or Vernier probes), low-tech materials (e.g. STEM books, materials to create a MakerSpace, or an outdoor classroom), or it may be an instructional method for which you would want to attend an expensive professional development session (e.g. Modeling Physics or Project GLAD). It may be something altogether different from these examples—but something that you need money to implement.
 - a. Journal 1 is an opportunity to brainstorm ideas for your full grant proposal. You should start with a topic or issue that you would like to try to address in your classroom. This could be anything, but could include "how to help students understand electric fields" or it may be "how to engage my English Learners in science learning", or "what school-level problem could I identify for students to help address, and how could I fund it?" Then you should write about how you might address it, and how funding might help. Journal 1 is intended to help your instructor understand your interests/needs, and demonstrate that you have been thinking about how to innovate in your classroom.
 - b. Journal 2 will provide your instructor outline your plan for what you are interested in having funded, and write about how it would impact your teaching and your

students' learning. You will identify a funding source that would make sense for your plan, from the list of teacher grant opportunities provided in class.

3. Each student will identify a potential source from a list of teacher grant opportunities and write a short grant proposal that could be submitted for funding. Deadlines on these opportunities vary, so students are not required to submit the proposal on a particular deadline during the class—but students are encouraged to follow through with the plan.

Lead-a-Lab with Technology:

Imagine a class that has almost no science materials but is rich with computer technology and network accessibility. Students will use online or computer-based technology to design and develop a "lab" experience where students learn the desired science content that they might have learned if they didn't have access to technology. You will create a video of you leading a lab activity as if you were teaching it to our class. This lab activity should be appropriate for a particular grade level and subject for students in grades PK through 12. The lab must focus on at least one specific standard from the Virginia Standards of Learning for science in elementary, middle, or high school (VA SOLs), Next Gen Science Standards (NGSS), or another state's science standards.

- The video should be 5-10 minutes long, with appropriate "pauses" for classmates
 (students) to work on the activity. It will be used in our course, so relevant links or
 directions for engaging in the activity should be used. Although the video should be less
 than 10 minutes long, the lab should engage learners in science content for between 15-30
 minutes.
- a) You should prepare a lesson plan that identifies the following:
 - (a) the grade level and/or course in which this lab would appropriately be conducted,
 - (b) 1-3 learning objectives, usually framed "the students will be able to...",
 - (c) VA SOL, NGSS, or other relevant standards that the activity will help students meet,
 - (d) any additional materials or handouts that may be needed,
 - (e) plan for assessing student learning related to the lab activity (formative assessments must be identified, summative assessments may be identified),
 - (f) needed accommodations for students with specific needs, and
 - (g) any other information needed to understand the lesson.

Evaluation criteria include (rubric will be provided):

- Evidence of appropriate planning (Lesson plan: 5 points)
- Evidence of appropriate planning
- Clear purpose for learning was evident
- Appropriate safety measures were demonstrated and applied
- Thought provoking questions were used
- The teacher circulated and assisted students
- The activity facilitated the learning of science process skills
- Smooth transitions between activities were evident
- Selected activities were appropriate for the objective
- Assessment was appropriate and corresponded to the learning objective

Final Reflection

Your final assignment for this class will be a final reflection. The prompt will be provided in class later in the semester.

General Requirements

A. Class attendance is both important and **required**. If, due to an emergency, you will not be in class, you must *contact your instructor prior to class time*. Learners with more than two absences may drop a letter grade or lose course credit.

- B. All assignments are either **due by class-time** OR no later than **11:59 PM EDT** of the date indicated in each week's assignments published in the **COURSE SCHEDULE AND TOPICS** section of this Syllabus. Due dates are also posted on our Bb course site.
 - a. Grades for assignments date-stamped in Blackboard after the due date will be reduced by 10%, unless prior approval from instructor has been granted. No late submissions will be accepted after the course end date.
 - b. Assignments earning less than a passing grade may be rewritten and resubmitted so that the assignment is satisfactorily completed. In fact, because learning is the goal, I may require you to redo an assignment that is far below expectations.
- C. Please adhere to the assignment submission instructions listed in this syllabus. Only assignments submitted as indicated will be graded; incorrect submissions will result in a grade of zero for those assignments.
 - **a.** All assignments submitted should have the filename format LASTNAME-ASSIGNMENT TITLE. Please do not upload written assignments in PDF format. Other editable formats are acceptable (i.e., .doc, .docx, .rtf, .ppt, .pptx, .xlsx, .xlsx). Supporting documents for assignments can be in PDF format.
- D. All written work should be carefully edited for standard grammar and punctuation, as well as clarity of thought. All submitted work should be prepared through word processing and reflect APA style (6th edition), as well as double-spaced, with 1" margins, and 12-point font (Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial).

GRADING SCALE

| 95-100 = A | 90-94 = A- | 86-89 = B+ | 83-85 = B | 80-82 = B- | 70-79 = C | Below 70 = F |

PROFESSIONAL DISPOSITIONS

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. See https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/polices-procedures/

Tentative Class Schedule

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

Module / Weeks	Topic & Readings	READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Module 1: Week 1 & 2 8/25 – 9/7	 What is innovation in education Online simulations & games Intro to donorschoose 	READ: Readings posted to Blackboard Submit by 11:59 pm on Mon 9/7: Teaching and Assessment with Technology
Module 2: Weeks 3 & 4 9/8 - 9/21	 Sustainability of change & Policy Lab & classroom technologies 	READ: Readings posted to Blackboard Submit by 11:59 pm on Mon 9/21: Grant Proposal Journal 1
Module 3: Weeks 5 & 6 9/22 – 10/5	 Maker-spaces & the maker movement More online simulations & games 	READ: Readings posted to Blackboard Submit by 11:59 pm Mon 10/5: Article/Resource Review & Critique
Module 4: Weeks 7 & 8 10/6 - 10/19	 Looking at teacher grants, Grants 101 Technology tools for teaching online and in person 	READ: Readings posted to Blackboard Due by 11:59 pm on 10/19: Post DonorsChoose project
Module 5: Weeks 9 & 10 10/20 - 11/2	 Curricular innovations: PBL, PBL, CCL, and all the others Curricular innovations & underlying philosophies 	READ: Readings posted to Blackboard DUE by 11:59 pm on 11/2: Grant Proposal Journal 2
Module 6: Weeks 11 & 12 11/3 – 11/16	 Design thinking & creativity Maker-spaces & the maker movement 	READ: Readings posted to Blackboard DUE by 11:59 pm on 11/16: Submit lead-a-Lab with Technology
Module 7: Weeks 13 & 14 11/17 – 11/30	 Investigating coding and computational thinking Learn from peers' learn-a-lab activities 	READ: Readings posted to Blackboard DUE by 11:59 pm on 11/30: Final grant Proposal, including budget
Module 8 Weeks 15 & 16 12/1 – 12/15	 Empowering students through innovative instruction Learn from peers' learn-a- lab activities 	READ: Readings posted to Blackboard DUE by 11:59 pm on 12/15: Final Reflection Due to Blackboard by Tues 12/15, 11:59 pm

Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/.

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see https://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason 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 with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see https://ds.gmu.edu/).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to tk20help@gmu.edu or https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking:

As a faculty member, I am designated as a "Responsible Employee," and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason's Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason's confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason's Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/.

Rubrics:

Participation and Professionalism

	Evolving	Competent	Accomplished
Overall Participation	Very few tasks are completed on time AND/OR completed tasks do not demonstrate thoughtful consideration of the content. Collaborate session, if scheduled, may not have been attended.	Most tasks for all weeks are completed on time and demonstrate thoughtfulness. Collaborate sessions, if scheduled, were attended and student somewhat engaged with peers and instructor.	All tasks for all weeks are completed on time and demonstrate thoughtfulness. Collaborate sessions, if scheduled, were attended and student actively engaged with peers and instructor
Discussion Quality	Discussion posts and most replies are limited; Readings are not at all integrated to support posts; Some to no posts utilize and demonstrate learners' prior and/or new knowledge; Replies do not go beyond superficial responses; Replies may not build on others' responses to create connected threads.	Most discussion posts and most replies are one robust paragraph to three paragraphs; Readings are somewhat integrated to support posts; Most but not all posts utilize and demonstrate learners' prior and/or new knowledge; Replies typically go beyond superficial responses; Most replies build on others' responses to create connected threads; Questions may be posed for further thought and discussion; Some questions from peers may be addressed (there is some evidence that you went back to read discussion replies)	All discussion posts and all replies are one robust paragraph to three paragraphs; Readings and weekly content are integrated to support thoughtful posts (and explicitly referenced); Posts utilize and demonstrate learners' prior and new knowledge; All replies go beyond superficial responses; Replies build on others' responses to create connected threads; As appropriate, questions are posed for further thought and discussion; Questions from peers are addressed (there is evidence that you went back to read discussion replies).

Teaching and Assessment with Technology Holistic Rubric

Evolving	Competent	Accomplished	
(0-3 points)	(4-7 points)	(8-10 points)	
Video is not	Video describes technology	Video clearly identifies technology for	
submitted, or is	insufficiently, or is actually technology	student use, what students will learn	
grossly misaligned	for teacher use. Insufficient details or	from engaging with the technology, and	
with the	examples of the assessment are	how student learning would be	
instructions.	provided.	assessed.	

Article/Resource Review & Critique Rubric

_	Evolving (0-1 point)	Competent (2 points)	Accomplished (3 points)
Article Summary	Article summary is not included OR is unclear and poorly written.	Article summary is excessively long or extremely short and/or is somewhat confusing.	Article summary is clear, articulate and brief.
Relevance to your teaching	Fails to raise relevant questions and/or make a relevant personal reaction to elementary science.	Relates a few personal reactions and/or raises relevant questions to elementary science.	Relates personal reactions and raises relevant questions throughout response.
Critique	Critique is missing or unclear.	Critique may identify strengths or weaknesses, but not both. Weaknesses may not relate to the classroom implementation, or are not thoughtfully discussed.	Critique of article is clearly written and identifies strengths and weaknesses of the ideas expressed in the article. Weaknesses are authentic and thoughtfully discussed in relation to the teacher's own or future classroom.
APA Reference	No references are included in the paper.		At least two relevant references are included using APA 7 th ed. style.

Lead-a-Lab Video & Lesson Plan Holistic Rubric

Evolving	Competent	Accomplished
(0-3 points)	(4-7 points)	(8-10 points)
Lesson plan	Lesson plan and video are	Lesson plan using provided template and video
or video is	submitted. Assessment may be	are submitted, along with a "Read before you
not	missing from the video and/or lesson	watch" paragraph. Formative assessment is
submitted,	plan. Lesson may be a lecture	evident in the video and lesson plan. Student
or is grossly	without a hands-on activity. Video	takes on teacher role within the instructional
misaligned	may be an explanation of the activity	video, providing clear direction to their peers as if
with the	rather than an example of teacher	their peers were actually K-12 students. Teacher
instructions.	instruction during a student-	asks questions and anticipates questions students
	centered activity.	may ask, and summarizes main ideas at the end
		of the video.

Holistic Rubric for Final Reflective Essay

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Evolving (0-3 points)	Competent (4-7 points)	Accomplished (8-10 points)
Student does not address	Student may not fully address	Student thoughtfully addresses the
the writing prompt. There	the writing prompt, or does not	writing prompt, building upon ideas
is little evidence that the	make clear how their ideas have	from their readings, assignments and
student has drawn on their	extended beyond those	class discussions. Growth across the
readings, assignments and	expressed in readings,	semester and critical reflection
class discussions. Neither	assignments and class	regarding their experiences and
growth nor reflection is	discussions. Minimal growth	expectations is evident. Course
evident.	evident. Reflection is present,	readings are referenced using APA 7 th
	but is not critical.	edition style.