

The Classroom Beyond Testing: Empowering Teachers in Their Classrooms

with instructor Stuart Schwartzman, Ed.D.

Graduate Course Number EDUC 0595 3 Credits

In this age of high stakes testing, in an atmosphere of governmental involvement, the temptation and often pressure to “teach to the test” has reached most classrooms. The challenge for educators is to create an environment with which students can flourish for the long term and where those subjects that are not valued by the testing community (i.e.: the fine arts) will be honored. Lessons will center on methods to incorporate those disciplines into every teacher’s curriculum and to insinuate engaging problem solving strategies into the classroom that uses testing as the cornerstone of their lessons. Methods employed include establishing connections between various academic areas especially introducing topics from the fine arts into all classrooms. Off-site learning, which brings community and regional attractions into the classroom by involving curricular considerations, will be an integral part of this course. A discussion of right-brain orientation, spatial learners, multicultural groups’, and gender related learning will demonstrate their impact on long term learning. Teachers should be able to react to the everyday challenge of students with classroom anxiety, standardized testing anxiety, and the lack of critical thinking embedded curricula. This should be accomplished by immersion in a participatory atmosphere within a cooperative environment and a willingness to restructure classroom activities. Teachers will return to their assignments with immediately usable methods and materials. Presented in an engaging problem solving atmosphere, teachers should be able to develop lessons that will make their curricula more applicable for everyday implementation. Teachers should enter their schools each day feeling professionally able to install their curriculum and apply the concepts and strategies initiated in their university course work and solidified by classroom experience. They must not believe that they are merely the implementers of test taking materials.

FOR ALL TEACHERS AND STAFF K-12: Language Arts, Science, Family and Consumer Sciences, Mathematics, Social Studies, World Languages, Special Education, Music, Art, Fine Arts, Physical Ed., Technology Ed., Health, Guidance.

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COURSE REGISTRATION FORM: The Classroom Beyond Testing: Empowering Teachers in Their Classrooms

Graduate Course EDUC 0595 3 GRADUATE CREDITS Stuart Schwartzman

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