



LILIE, LLC Course Information

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Title of Course (45 hours): Contemporary Issues in Education

Course Description:

The media, a volatile world, and pressures from the State Education Department, as well as federal government, have added many challenges to the profession of teaching. This course will examine and explore ways for teachers to meet these challenges. It will reflect upon past, current and emerging educational practices and issues using a variety of frameworks including historical, theoretical, social, political, and legal.

Overall Course Objective and Expectation(s):

- Explore the history and foundations of our educational system
- Relate current issues to teaching as a profession, such as, the economy, NCLB and other federal mandates, charter schools and privatization vouchers, tenure, merit pay, tax caps, media depictions, special education regulations, and school safety
- Rethink personal assumptions **and** consider alternative perspectives
- Investigate current and emerging theories, practices and issues

Course Instructional Materials:

All courses maintain a fully developed and dynamic webpage that houses all resources, reference material and various other required informational texts, videos and alike that is both active and relevant to course objectives and content. Course web pages are routinely updated to reflect most current research and available readings therefore instructional materials used to teach course objectives are subject to change.

Instructor Consultation and Interaction:

Real time consultation and instruction is provided through the LILIE, LLC discussion boards for each course/classroom on a daily basis.

Required Readings (subject to change):

Various websites with the most current information (updated annually)

Proof of Course Completion:

LILIE, LLC is committed to assuring that enrollees fully participate in and receive the educational benefits contemplated by the course. Enrollees must demonstrate participation by making detailed postings designed to foster dialogue among colleagues and instructors. These enrollee postings must be made four times each week in separate sessions. Enrollees will be required to submit a detailed log documenting at least 45 hours of course work, including discussion board posts, and will be required to apply information and strategies acquired from the course content to weekly classroom instruction. Attempts to falsify logs or discussion board entries will result in denial of credit and a report to the enrollee's employer.



Scope & Sequence/Weekly Topics and Objectives

Week 1

Topic(s):

- Our Educational System
- Today's Economy

Objectives:

- Brainstorm teacher challenges
- Debate whether teaching is a profession or a craft
- Investigate how teacher and administrative certifications can be improved
- Discuss the progress that needs to be made in our educational system
- Explore NYS Education Department Resources for education
- Assess the impact the economy is having on your school district

Impact on Classroom Instruction:

- Share insight with educators beyond this classroom and remain proactive on school-wide, local, state and national levels
- Take the steps, on a classroom level, to progress education
- Apply useful resources to improve the educational system in which you work in

Learner Outcomes:

- Begin to become aware of the many hidden challenges faced in our profession and explore ways for teachers to meet these challenges

Assessment of Understanding and Learning/ Weekly Assignments (*including but not limited to posting requirements set forth by LILIE, LLC*):

- Respond to all questions posed by teacher in a manner that demonstrates planning and thought, and makes pertinent references to the assigned readings



Week II

Topic(s):

- NCLB
- Charter Schools/Privatization/Vouchers

Objectives:

- Identify the successes and failures of NCLB
- Justify whether or not you think AYP is a valid tool in measuring student learning
- Judge whether the directives aimed at failing schools are having the right impact
- Respond to the Audio clip, “No Child Left Unhappy?”
- Explore the shortcomings of charter schools versus public schools
- Discuss the threats that privatization presents to public education

Impact on Classroom Instruction:

- Share insight with educators beyond this classroom and remain proactive on school-wide, local, state and national levels
- Enhance curriculum with reading comprehension and test-taking strategies to ensure that your school makes AYP

Learner Outcomes:

- Appreciate the drastic impact NCLB, AYP, charter school and privatization can have on public education

Assessment of Understanding and Learning/ Weekly Assignments (*including but not limited to posting requirements set forth by LILIE, LLC*):

- Respond to all questions posed by teacher in a manner that demonstrates planning and thought, and makes pertinent references to the assigned readings
- Post reaction to audio clip



Week III

Topic(s):

- Tenure
- Merit Pay
- Tax Cap

Objectives:

- Explore the history of teacher unions and how the teaching profession has evolved
- Review the recent changes to tenure laws
- Decipher tenure myths from truths
- Recognize the different forms of merit pay
- Argue what would make for a fair and equitable way to measure teacher success
- Discover how a tax cap affects your school district and undermines special education
- Investigate an alternative to a tax cap

Impact on Classroom Instruction:

- Share insight with educators beyond this classroom and remain proactive on school-wide, local, state and national levels

Learner Outcomes:

- Recognize the challenges public education is up against when faced with tenure, merit pay and tax caps

Assessment of Understanding and Learning/ Weekly Assignments (*including but not limited to posting requirements set forth by LILIE, LLC*):

- Respond to all questions posed by teacher in a manner that demonstrates planning and thought, and makes pertinent references to the assigned readings
- Post reaction to audio clip



Week IV

Topic(s):

- Media Depictions of The Teaching Profession
- Special Education
- School Safety

Objectives:

- Explore various TV and on-line media depictions
- Examine and comprehend IDEA regulations
- Discuss school safety as it relates to violence prevention, bullying, and mandated reporters

Impact on Classroom Instruction:

- Share insight with educators beyond this classroom and remain proactive on school-wide, local, state and national levels
- Adhere to IDEA regulations when working with a student/s of the special education population
- Create a safe and orderly classroom environment

Learner Outcomes:

- Realize how media can shape the views of public education
- Value the importance of IDEA regulations
- Prioritize school safety

Assessment of Understanding and Learning/ Weekly Assignments (*including but not limited to posting requirements set forth by LILIE, LLC*):

- Respond to all questions posed by teacher in a manner that demonstrates planning and thought, and makes pertinent references to the assigned readings
- Post reaction to news clips
- Prepare a personal philosophy on how to handle stress related to expectations teachers face