

**Course Syllabus EDUC 5830 CREATIVE EXPRESSION FOR THE YOUNG CHILD**

Term: FA 2002 Instructor: Lori Diefenbacher 966-4829 (home) 968-7091 (office)

**NOTE:** Please contact classmates to make up work you miss if you are absent.

**Course Description:**

In this course, participants will explore the role of the teacher in developing climates and media which are conducive to creative behavior. Movement, visual arts, dramatic arts, music and storytelling are the media which will be explored. Current theories of creativity will be discussed and emphasis will be on how to nurture and promote creative expression in young students, ages 0-8.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Participants will discover some of their own creative skills.
2. Will become aware of the creative opportunities they already offer their students and will expand on this base.
3. Will respond to writing and experiences through inclass activities and discussions.
4. Will understand what creativity is, how to nurture it, and how it varies from child to child.
5. Will develop and share creative curriculum and creative activities.

**WEEK 1:** Introductions. Discuss syllabus. Discuss the definitions of creativity, the ingredients of creativity, the creative process, the benefits of a creative teaching style, and general ways to promote creativity. **Assignment:** Handouts.

**WEEK 2:** Music. Explore ways of using song and instrumental music to promote creative thinking, learn about music elements, and support the basic curricula. **Assignment:** Using the techniques that we have discussed, develop activity which supports your current classroom topics, use them in your class, and write up evaluation of the activity. Due Week 4. Bring in some object that you can tell a story about.

**WEEK 3:** Storytelling and Language Arts. Methods for telling stories in the classroom will include perspectives of students as well as teachers. **Assignment:** Learn a story and tell it in your classroom. Be prepared to orally report on the experience. Also, bring a camera with 12 exposures.

**WEEK 4:** Photography and the young child. How the taking and assessing of photographs can help elicit creative responses from young students. Experiences with photography will include elements of taking photos as well as thorough vocabulary for responding. **Assignment:** Respond to one of the photos you took in class, using the guiding questions. Involve your students in some or all of the responses. Write up experience. Due Week 5. Read handouts.

**WEEK 5:** Movement for the curricula. Kinesthetic experiences weave many of the Gardner intelligences together. A vocabulary for movement will be established and a variety of movement exercises will be explored. **Assignment:** Using ideas from the movement session, include an activity using movement with your students. Be prepared to orally report on experience. **Please bring scissors next week.**

**WEEK 6:** Visual Arts. Certain arts promote creativity more than others. Options will be explored and discussed. How classic and experiential art affect the young child. **Assignment:** Respond to drawing of student with six statements. Turn in responses with xerox of drawing.

**WEEK 7:** Dramatic arts can promote communication. Puppetry is a culmination of the other creative arts. Discussions of appropriate productions for young students, games to exercise theatrical expression, and puppetry. **Assignment:** Include a puppet activity in your curriculum this week. Be prepared to report orally on experience.

**WEEK 8:** Conclusions and final projects.

Attendance to all classes is expected. Absences can affect final grades if student is wavering between grades.