Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs
Winona Campus

GPDI 5050U
Professional Book Study
What's Different about Teacher Reading to Students Learning English
1 credit
Spring 2015

Course Dates & Location:
April 1 – May 21, 2015; CESA 10, Chippewa Falls, WI

Instructor(s)
Kristen Gundry, kgundry@cesa10.k12.wi.us, 715-720-2045

Course Description
The most effective way to improve classroom practice is through work located within schools, conducted among colleagues, and integrated with teachers' day-to-day practice. Participants in a professional book study read and discuss a book related to theoretical and pedagogical frameworks to expand their understanding of best practices, enhance their teaching, and make connections to their own classroom. By collaboratively sharing and building knowledge, participants develop and implement an inquiry plan that focuses on enhancing their teaching and improving student achievement.

Student Learning Objectives
Upon completion of this class, students are expected to be able to do the following:

a. Examine existing classroom instructional practices to identify strengths and gaps for professional growth.
b. Share and/or analyze diverse perspectives on the text content in order to build knowledge on the topic and examine these ideas in relation to a classroom learning environment.
c. Apply the book's theoretical and pedagogical approaches to the teaching and learning practice.
d. Develop professional inquiry skills as a tool for sustained professional development.
e. Demonstrate reflection and self-assessment through individual and collaborative efforts.

Textbook
What's Different About Teaching Reading to Students Learning English by Dorothy Kauffman and Lynda Franco

Additional Resources
Students in collaboratively delivered graduate courses can access additional resources through the GPDI website at gpdi.smumn.edu. Instructors will provide the required username and passwords. Resources include access to ProQuest, an extensive database of practitioner-oriented and research-based articles. The ProQuest link is accessible once students log in to the website that is available through your school's collaboration with Saint Mary's University. Guides for using ProQuest are posted on that website. Additional library resources and assistance are available upon request, especially for students in degree-seeking programs at

Saint Mary's University. Contact the PDI Program Office via email at pdi@smumn.edu for further assistance.

Teaching Methods
The GPDI program works collaboratively with teacher leaders, administrators, and schools to design and facilitate job-embedded and application-based professional learning. Course instructors design instructional and reflective strategies and activities that require the application and analysis of job-embedded learning, where teachers engage in additional inquiry-based professional learning related to the student learning objectives.

Synopsis of Assignments
Assigned readings (a, b, c, e)
Formative assessments (a, b, c, e)
Reader responses (a, b, c)
Self-assessment (e)

Assessment of Student Performance
Throughout the course, students will be assessed and evaluated on the completion of the following assessments:

For one (1) graduate credit
1. Read the selected text and engage in dialogue with others based on the reading.
2. Complete regular "Reader Response" reflections.
3. Create a short "Plan of Action" that highlights how you anticipate incorporating your new learning into your classroom or work world.

Criteria for each assessment will be explained more thoroughly, in conjunction with the instructional activities.

Grading Policies
Grading policies are consistent with university policy as stated in the current Catalog and Student Handbook. Grading is based solely on the assessment of the student learning objectives. The grade of "I" (Incomplete) may or may not be given by the instructor at the student's request when the required work is not completed. The student must submit a written request to the instructor prior to the final class session, indicating when the work will be completed.

Graduate Grading Scale
A   90-100%
B   80-89%
C   70-79%
NC   below 70%

Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs Student Handbook
Included in the Handbook are details regarding SGPP Academic Policies, Registration & Tuition Policies, and University Conduct policy. Transcripts may be requested, free of charge, by submitting a Transcript Request form, which is found on the pdi.smumn.edu website.