

SYLLABUS

Elements of Effective Interdisciplinary Teams and Integrated Instruction in the Middle Schools DoDDS Heidelberg District & Mediterranean District: Aviano

Instructor: Dr. Sandra L. Schurr, University of South Florida, College of Education, Sarasota Campus

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Course Title: Elements of Effective Interdisciplinary Teams and Integrated Instruction in the Middle Schools

Course Prefix and Number: 89312 – EDC - EDG 6931 - 702

Course Credit: 3 graduate credit hours

Course Dates: Fall 2004 – Spring 2005

Course Description: This course examines the essential elements of effective interdisciplinary teams, the key benefits of teaming for both teachers and students, the essentials of the block schedule, tools and techniques for effective team meetings, ways to assess team progress, ways to document student growth and achievement on individual teams, and interdisciplinary/integrated instruction.

Content Outline: This course requires participation in the training sessions of Fall 2004 and Spring 2005 in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS), active participation in the classroom-team reform and restructuring activities, and in the documentation of participation through the construction and maintenance of a professional portfolio.

Required Texts/Readings:

Forte, I., & Schurr, S. (2002). *The definitive middle school guide: A handbook for success*. Revised Edition. Nashville, TN: Incentive Publications. ISBN: 0-86530-567-6

Forte, I., & Schurr, S. (2004). *Advisory plus! Standards-based sessions with character education, learning styles, and assessment components*. Nashville, TN: Incentive Publications. ISBN: 0-86530-622-2

Jackson, A., & Davis, G. A. (2000). *Turning Points 2000: Educating adolescents in the 21st century*. New York, NY: Teachers College Press. ISBN: 0807739960

Course Objectives: Students will learn about the essential elements of effective interdisciplinary teams, the key benefits of teaming for both teachers and students, the essentials of the block schedule, tools and techniques for effective team meetings, ways to assess team progress, ways to document student growth and achievement on individual teams, and interdisciplinary/integrated instruction. Students will improve practices related to effective interdisciplinary teams and integrated instruction.

Student Assessment Techniques:

Students will . . .

1. Maintain a comprehensive learning log of all training sessions and team visits as well as all assigned readings that summarizes and analyzes content, shares personal reactions, discusses implications for student achievement, and offers constructive suggestions for positive reform and improvement of middle school teams and integrated instructional practices.
2. Maintain a comprehensive portfolio of teacher and student-generated artifacts to document innovations, improvements, practices, and new models related to effective interdisciplinary teams and related integrated instruction.

Some artifacts to consider submitting are:

- Student-generated entries from your team/classroom.
- Copies of team handbook and team meeting agendas/minutes.
- Summaries of tools and techniques used to build a team identity.
- Samples of tools and techniques used for team decision-making and problem-solving.
- Self-evaluation team or team member checklists.
- Sample articles/reviews related to interdisciplinary teams and integrated instruction that have influenced you.
- Interdisciplinary Planning Matrix for your team.
- Sample Interdisciplinary Unit with student results and/or evaluations.
- Research/literature findings related to interdisciplinary teams and integrated instruction.
- Parent surveys/reactions to team events, activities, and practices.
- Anything else you feel is important to document your team's progress or your team's efforts in the implementation of integrated instruction.

DEADLINE FOR PORTFOLIO ARTIFACTS

All materials are due on or before April 10, 2005. Mail to Dr. Sandra Schurr at the address listed above. Please keep a copy of your work and mail by a traceable shipper. If you want your portfolio back, please include correct mailing address to send it to, along with correct postage.

NOTE: You can look for your grade online by clicking OASIS from the university homepage, <http://www.usf.edu> or request it to be mailed by clicking on GRADE MAILER. You may also request an official transcript by OASIS at the same Web site.

COURSE REGISTRATION COST: In a special offer, the state of Florida is charging DoDDS teachers in-state, resident tuition. The current resident tuition rate is \$233.07 per credit hour plus a \$37 flat fee and \$20 non-degree-seeking application fee. The same nonresident tuition is \$894.56 per credit hour — you save almost \$2,000!

