

Summer Semester 2002

EDUC 377 - 4
Special Topics:
Middle School Theory & Practice
E01.00

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Wednesdays 17:30-21:20 in EDB 8620

PREREQUISITE:

EDUC 401/2

DESCRIPTION

This course is a "hands on, minds on" approach to understanding and implementing best practice at the middle school level. It is intended to examine and analyse the attributes of exemplary middle schools. The course is designed for preservice and beginning teachers who are, or anticipate teaching at the middle school level. This course will also be appropriate for those who anticipate teaching upper intermediate students in the conventional elementary school and for experienced teachers who are new to the middle school model. It will examine the theoretical foundations of and practical approaches to the purpose and nature of middle school pedagogy. Participants will engage in a variety of learning activities and experiences that reflect sound middle school practice and will be required to examine and analyse these in the light of the constructivist and developmental theories addressed. Particular attention will be paid to the following components of the middle school structure: teaming, for both students and teachers; exploratory and advisory programs; varied modes of instruction.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide practical instructional experiences which apply and allow for examination of the essential elements of middle school pedagogy, curriculum and organization
- To provide an understanding of the unique developmental characteristics of early adolescents
- To provide an understanding of the historical background and current trends in middle school practice

REQUIREMENTS

- Research project (30%)
- Group unit plan design (30%)
- Portfolio of mini-assignments (30%)
- Participation (10%)

Required readings to be announced. A photocopy fee will be applied. Copies of recommended readings will be available in CET and/or put on reserve in the library.