

MSED 7010
Current Trends and Issues in Education
3 Semester Hours
Spring 2014

Dewar College of Education and Human Services
Valdosta State University
Department of Middle, Secondary, Reading, and Deaf Education
Conceptual Framework: Guiding Principles (DEPOSITS)
(adapted from the Georgia Systemic Teacher Education Program Accomplished Teacher Framework)

Dispositions Principle: Productive dispositions positively affect learners, professional growth, and the learning environment.

Equity Principle: All learners deserve high expectations and support.

Process Principle: Learning is a lifelong process of development and growth.

Ownership Principle: Professionals are committed to and assume responsibility for the future of their disciplines.

Support Principle: Successful engagement in the process of learning requires collaboration among multiple partners.

Impact Principle: Effective practice yields evidence of learning.

Technology Principle: Technology facilitates teaching, learning, community-building, and resource acquisition.

Standards Principle: Evidence-based standards systematically guide professional preparation and development.

InTASC Model Core Teacher Standards*

Standard #1: Learner Development. The teacher understands how learners grow and develop, recognizing that patterns of learning and development vary individually within and across the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical areas, and designs and implements developmentally appropriate and challenging learning experiences.

Standard #2: Learning Differences. The teacher uses understanding of individual differences and diverse cultures and communities to ensure inclusive learning environments that enable each learner to meet high standards.

Standard #3: Learning Environments. The teacher works with others to create environments that support individual and collaborative learning, and that encourage positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation.

Standard #4: Content Knowledge. The teacher understands the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline(s) he or she teaches and creates learning experiences that make the discipline accessible and meaningful for learners to assure mastery of the content.

Standard #5: Application of Content. The teacher understands how to connect concepts and use differing perspectives to engage learners in critical thinking, creativity, and collaborative problem solving related to authentic local and global issues.

Standard #6: Assessment. The teacher understands and uses multiple methods of assessment to engage learners in their own growth, to monitor learner progress, and to guide the teacher's and learner's decision making.

Standard #7: Planning for Instruction. The teacher plans instruction that supports every student in meeting rigorous learning goals by drawing upon knowledge of content areas, curriculum, cross-disciplinary skills, and pedagogy, as well as knowledge of learners and the community context.

Standard #8: Instructional Strategies. The teacher understands and uses a variety of instructional strategies to encourage learners to develop deep understanding of content areas and their connections, and to build skills to apply knowledge in meaningful ways.

Standard #9: Professional Learning and Ethical Practice. The teacher engages in ongoing professional learning and uses evidence to continually evaluate his/her practice, particularly the effects of his/her choices and actions on others (learners, families, other professionals, and the community), and adapts practice to meet the needs of each learner.

Standard #10: Leadership and Collaboration. The teacher seeks appropriate leadership roles and opportunities to take responsibility for student learning, to collaborate with learners, families, colleagues, other school professionals, and community members to ensure learner growth, and to advance the profession.

**Council of Chief State School Offices, (2013, April). InTASC model core teacher standards and learning progressions for teachers 1.0. Retrieved from http://www.ccsso.org/Documents/2013/2013_INTASC_Learning_Progressions_for_Teachers.pdf*

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Gutek, G. (2013). *Philosophical, Ideological, and Theoretical Perspectives on Education*. (2nd ed.). Pearson. ISBN-10: **0132852381** | ISBN-13: **978-0132852388**

A *LiveText* software account is required and it may be purchased at the bookstore or online.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Advanced study of trends and issues concerning public education within the framework and/or levels of middle grades and secondary education are explored through perspectives of education and empirical research. Entering the teaching profession requires understanding of the context of modern public education in the United States and world-wide. The education field is rapidly changing and understanding the social dynamics behind these changes is essential for today's teacher. The course is divided into three sections. Section One centers around ethics and law related to education at the national and state level. Section Two centers around standards-based education and standardized testing. Section Three centers around philosophies and theoretical perspectives of education. This course will also be conducted as a hybrid course meaning that some class meetings will take place face-to-face and some class meetings will occur online.

LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR VSU'S CORE CURRICULUM

All learning outcomes in the major continue to build upon those in VSU's Core Curriculum listed at <http://www.valdosta.edu/gec/ProposedNewLearningOutcomes.shtml>.

COURSE OBJECTIVES (CO):

Numbers in parentheses following objectives refer to College of Education Conceptual Framework Standards.

By the end of this course, students should demonstrate the following competencies:

1. Examine the plural role(s) of community, parent, stakeholders and others and their role and involvement in the educational process – this includes local, state and national levels (2,3,6)
2. Describe the changes and or differences in pedagogy and learning through multiple lenses and modalities (1,2,4,5)
3. Examine the relationships between pedagogy, accountability and assessments (3,4,5)
4. Compare and contrast a variety of schooling opportunities, concepts, issues and problems, as seen from multiple perspectives (1,2,3)
5. Evaluate and understand the nuanced nature of special needs students and their impact, influence, role on the educational process (2,3,5)
6. Understand the complex role of controversial issues in education (2,3,6)

7. Demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills (1,6)
8. Understand and utilize research and new learning as extension or tools for greater student cognition and/or pedagogical success (1,6)
9. Write a research paper on a current issues and develop an educational philosophy (1,6)

COURSE ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

A brief description of each assignment is included; however, you will be provided a more detailed description of assignments and rubrics in class.

1. Each student will read articles in professional journals, online forums and/or other media formats then respond to weekly question-based discussion assignments (CO 1-6)
 - A. Write a weekly one page single-spaced response to weekly topics
 - B. Active discussion and response on online discussion board in Blazeview
2. Each student will write a 5-page double spaced researched response to an educational law (CO 1-6)
3. Each student will write a 5-page literature review on a current educational topic (CO 1-6)
4. Each student will develop an educational philosophy based on the course textbook’s educational philosophies and theories (CO 1-6)

COURSE EVALUATION.

LATE WORK: NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED. If you are going to miss class and you have an assignment due, it is your responsibility to get it to me. You can do this by sending it by another student or sending it to me via email. Professional ethics, behavior, quality, and timeliness are expected in all products and performances. Given the percentage weights above, final grades will be assigned according to the following scale (**NOTE-A ZERO IN ANY OF THESE CATEGORIES WILL PRECLUDE THE CANDIDATE FROM RECEIVING AN “A” IN THE COURSE**):

Assessment/Evaluation

Assignments	Points
Weekly question response	20 pts
Blazeview discussion board participation	20 pts
Researched law paper	20 pts
Research paper on chosen topic	20 pts
Educational philosophy	20 pts
Total	100 pts

Grading Scale

A = 100 - 90	D = 69 - 60
B = 89 - 80	F = 59 - 0
C = 79 - 70	

ATTENDANCE POLICY

When students are compelled for any reason to be absent from class, they should immediately contact the instructor. As per the VSU Undergraduate Bulletin (2012-13), “A student who misses more than 20% of the scheduled classes of a course will be subject to receiving a failing grade in the course” (p. 87).

PROFESSIONALISM

The following areas describe the professional expectations for all pre-service students in the Department of Middle, Secondary, Reading, and Deaf Education. A student who does not meet professional expectations is placed on a Professional Improvement Plan. Please see

<http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/deans-office/documents/professional-improvement-plan-11.22.13.doc>

Professionalism - Ethics

Educators are professionals guided by ethical commitments to their students, their families and to the communities in which they work. (See: The Code of Ethics for Educators at <http://www.gapsc.com/Rules/Current/Ethics/505-6-.01.pdf>).

Professional values of teachers include respect, integrity, collaboration, active participation, building alliances, resolving conflicts, and reflective, intellectual inquiry. It is expected that future teachers conduct themselves with the professionalism that is required of practicing teachers. If at any time a student’s actions or attitudes are judged to be less than professional appropriate remedial action will be taken.

Professionalism – Dress code

In this course, classes are held in public schools. **Professional dress code is required.**

Professionalism - Communication

Effective written and verbal communication skills are critical to you as a professional educator as you interact with students, colleagues, administrators, and parents. Those individuals whose communication skills (verbal or written) indicate a need for assistance will be referred to the appropriate services on campus.

Professionalism - Assignments

All assignments should conform to the professional standards expected of university students. Papers must be typed, double-spaced in an appropriate font style and size with no spelling or grammatical errors. Assignments will be graded on content, composition, spelling, punctuation, and grammar. In papers, ideas obtained from sources must be documented using APA style. Proofread and correct papers before they are submitted.

Professionalism - Diversity

Professional educators are expected to embrace diversity. A variety of materials and instructional strategies will be used to meet the needs of different learning styles of diverse learners in the class. Students will be provided with opportunities to gain the knowledge, skills and understanding to provide effective instruction in multicultural classrooms. Mutual respect for people of diverse characteristics, beliefs, and abilities should be evident for all teacher candidates.

Professionalism - Technology

As part of our conceptual framework, the College of Education is committed to preparing professional educators who are technology competent. As a result, technology has been infused into our education courses.

Statement on Academic Integrity

Educators are professionals guided by ethical commitments to their students, their families and to the communities in which they work. (See: The Code of Ethics for Educators at <http://www.gapsc.com/Professionalpractices/NEthics.asp>) Professional values of teachers include respect, integrity, collaboration, active participation, building alliances, resolving conflicts, and reflective, intellectual inquiry. Future teachers should conduct themselves with the professionalism that is required of practicing teachers.

- In assignments and discussion postings, you should never provide names or identifying information about other people (students, other professionals, or parents). For confidentiality, you should use pseudonyms for students and should not identify schools unless you are using information that is publically available.
- All assignments should be your own original work, not group work. If you use ideas from other sources, you must provide a full citation using APA style – name(s) of author(s); date of publication or retrieval date; title of article/book/web page; name and location of publisher (book), name of journal, or URL of website. Do not share your work with others. If student A uses work from student B with or without permission, both students receive zero grades for the assignment.

Description of Academic Dishonesty

To ensure there are no chances for students to misunderstand what constitutes plagiarism, cheating, or prohibited collaboration across the University System of Georgia, this section will describe in some detail the behaviors which are viewed as academically dishonest.

While students are likely to understand plagiarism as stealing someone's words as their own, there are many types of plagiarism.

- **Stealing Verbatim:** This is exactly as it sounds. If, when composing an assignment, students take a sentence, a portion of a phrase, or even a unique expression which is not theirs, and submit it as their own (without quoting the original source), they have committed plagiarism. **Sentences that are verbatim or nearly verbatim (more than 70% match) should be both quoted and cited.**

- **Use of Professional Resources Without Acknowledgement.** Students may not use published professional resources, including lesson plans, learning activities, or PowerPoint presentations, without citing the source.
- **Misquoting:** If, when composing an assignment, students directly quote a source and cite it, but alter the author's words to strengthen their argument, they have committed plagiarism.
- **Paraphrasing or Summarizing Without Citing:** An allowable practice in academia is for students to take an author's words, change the words (without changing the meaning) so that it better fits their narrative. Paraphrasing goes beyond changing a couple of words. However, even when paraphrasing or summarizing another author's words, students *must* cite that original source. If they do not cite the original source, they have effectively stolen the original author's idea and have committed plagiarism.
- **Duplicating Publication:** Students may not reuse or recycle any previous assignments used in another course, or in any other published venue, without the explicit permission from the course instructor. The instructors in the Master's Degree Program in Curriculum and Instruction do *not* allow students to reuse or recycle their assignments in any course. If students have done this, they have committed plagiarism.
- **Duplication of Peer Student Work:** Students may not submit assignments that duplicate in whole or part the work of other students, with or without the other student's express consent or knowledge.

Note: Assignments in this course may be checked electronically for plagiarism.

By taking this course, you agree that all required course work may be subject to submission for electronic review based on textual similarity.

DEWAR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM

Below is information directly quoted from the Academic Honesty Policies and Procedures:

Academic integrity is the responsibility of all VSU faculty and students. Faculty members should promote academic integrity by including clear instruction on the components of academic integrity and clearly defining the penalties for cheating and plagiarism in their course syllabi. Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the Academic Integrity Policy as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct and the faculty members' syllabi. All students are expected to do their own work and to uphold a high standard of academic ethics.

The full text of Academic Honesty Policies and Procedures is available on the Academic Affairs website (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyatVSU.shtml>).

The consequences for acts of academic dishonesty in the Dewar College of Education are:

FIRST OFFENSE:

1. The faculty member will administer an academic response (e.g. resubmit / retake assignment, failure of the assignment, failure of the course).

2. The faculty member will complete a Dewar College of Education Concern Form (<http://www.valdosta.edu/coe/studentsinfo.shtml>).
3. The faculty member will complete a Valdosta State University Report of Academic Dishonesty (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyatVSU.shtml>).

SECOND OFFENSE:

1. The faculty member will administer an academic response (e.g. resubmit / retake assignment, failure of the assignment, failure of the course).
2. The faculty member will complete a Dewar College of Education Concern form (<http://www.valdosta.edu/coe/studentsinfo.shtml>). The Dewar College of Education Concern Form Policy will be followed.
3. The faculty member will complete a Valdosta State University Report of Academic Dishonesty (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyatVSU.shtml>). According to the Academic Honesty Policies and Procedures document, “after a second (or subsequent) Report of Academic Dishonesty has been submitted to the Student Conduct Office in the Dean of Students Office, official charges will be drawn up and the disciplinary matter will be referred to the Valdosta State University Judicial Committee.”

Note: Assignments in this course may be checked electronically for plagiarism.

By taking this course, you agree that all required course work may be subject to submission for electronic review based on textual similarity.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of the institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the age, sex, race, religion, color, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation of the individual. It is the intent of the institution to comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent Executive Orders as well as Title IX, Equal Pay Act of 1963, Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871 (VP) and 229-219-1348 (TTY). For more information, please visit <http://www.valdosta.edu/access> or email: access@valdosta.edu.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

The Student Success Center (SSC) at Valdosta State University is located in Langdale Residence Hall and is available to all students. The SSC provides free professional academic advising, peer tutoring in core curriculum courses, and campus job information in one location. We strongly

encourage students to make use of their services. Contact: phone number 229-333-7570; email ssc@valdosta.edu.

STUDENT OPINION OF INSTRUCTION

At the end of the term, all students will be expected to complete an online Student Opinion of Instruction survey (SOI) that will be available on BANNER. Students will receive an email notification through their VSU email address when the SOI is available (generally at least one week before the end of the term). SOI responses are anonymous, and instructors will be able to view only a summary of all responses two weeks after they have submitted final grades. While instructors will not be able to view individual responses or to access any of the responses until after final grade submission, they will be able to see which students have or have not completed their SOIs, and student compliance may be considered in the determination of the final course grade. These compliance and non-compliance reports will not be available once instructors are able to access the results. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey and a timetable for this term is available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/OnlineSOIPilotProject.shtml>.

DIRECTIONS FOR USING LIVETEXT

How To Submit Portfolio Assignments in LiveText

Note: These directions apply only to assignments visible on your dashboard AND required as part of your portfolio. The list of portfolio artifacts required for your program of study is available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/coe/sec/studentresources.shtml>

Note: Lesson Plans assessed after supervisors have observed in the field in MGED 4620, MGED 4790, MSED 7021, MSED 7041, MSED 7005, and MSED 7006 are **not** included in your portfolio. Follow separate directions for submitting these lesson plans for your university supervisor to assess.

All portfolio submissions should follow a **basic process**:

1. Load your assignment into the appropriate page of your portfolio.
2. Complete the four-part description of your artifact, explaining how it provides evidence that you have met COE's Conceptual Framework Standards.
3. Hide all pages except the current assignment.
4. Submit the portfolio (single page visible).

Directions for submission:

First, you need to edit your portfolio to include the new assignment

1. Click on **Documents** tab
2. Open your portfolio
3. Open the page for the current assignment under the *Table of Contents*
4. Click the "Edit" button of the Description and Rationale section
5. Complete the four-part description of your assignment as a portfolio artifact. Narrative in the last three sections should consist of a substantive paragraph.
 - a. The **Description** section can be very brief.
 - b. In the **Rationale** section, explain how the assignment provides evidence that you meet selected indicators for the standard. Each of the standards with indicators is included as a separate page within your portfolio.

- c. In the **Impact** section, describe how the skills or knowledge you learned from this assignment will impact your students' learning.
- d. In the **Reflection** section, describe what you have learned from the process of completing this artifact and how it will influence your professional practice.
6. Towards the bottom there is a File Attachment(s) section, click “Edit”
7. Select “Upload New File,” click Choose File, and browse for your file on your computer
8. After the file loads, Click “Save & Finish”

Then, you hide all pages except the current assignment

The assessor should see only the single page of your portfolio.

9. Select **Manage Pages**.
10. Click on the box next to **Title** to select all pages.
11. Click on the box next to the current artifact page to unselect it.
12. Select **Hide Pages: Save and Finish**.
13. Note: Don’t forget to unhide pages after you have submitted your assignment so you don’t panic next time you open your portfolio.

Then, you need to submit the portfolio:

14. Near the top of the screen, select the **Dashboard** tab
15. Find the assignment and click on the corresponding **Begin Assignment** button
16. On the Assignment page, click on the **Attach Files** button. (Note that you will not be able to submit until you have attached at least one file.)
17. Click on the **LiveText Documents** tab to find your portfolio. **Do not click on Browse.**
18. Click “Attach Selected Files”
19. Type any optional comments you wish to send to the instructor and click **Submit Assignment** when you are finished.

- A confirmation that your assessment has been successfully submitted will appear and the assignment status on your dashboard will change to Awaiting Assessment.
- Each submission is saved as a snapshot of what you sent. Any further changes you make to your portfolio will not affect what you have already submitted.
- If you do not submit your assignment correctly, Your instructor will send it back to you for resubmission.

If you have to resubmit your assignment:

20. Find the problem and fix any problems with your portfolio. See comments from your instructor. There are two common problems:
 - a. Submitting the assignment and not the portfolio (see #17 above).
 - b. Not hiding pages of your portfolio other than the current assignment page (see #9-13 above). Check that only one page is visible.
21. From your **Dashboard** tab, find the relevant assignment and click on **Continue Assignment**. This allows you to see previous submissions and messages from your instructor.

22. Click on **Continue to Step 3** in the top right corner.
23. Remove any of the previous attachments by clicking in the red "X" button next to each file.
24. Under **Step 2 of 3**, you will see "Have you already created files of LiveText documents for this assignment?" Click on **Attach files**, then follow directions 17-19 above.

Directions for Other LiveText Tasks

The following directions should be provided to individual students on an as-needed basis.

How to Add Artifact Pages to Your Portfolio

Sometimes, you need to add an additional artifact page to your portfolio. For instance, you may take a course as an elective and you do not have the appropriate page to upload an assignment. The easiest way to add a page to your portfolio is to copy an existing portfolio page, rename it, and then move it to the appropriate place.

1. From **Documents**, open your portfolio.
2. Select **Manage Pages**.
3. Click in the box to select **Artifact Page for Copying** (at the bottom of the page list). If you created your portfolio before summer 2011, you will not have a page with that title. Instead, select any unused artifact page. >**Copy**.
4. Click in the box next to the copied page (at the very bottom of the page list). >**Edit Titles**.
5. Type the name for the assignment, using naming convention similar to other artifact pages.
6. Click on **Page Order**. Highlight the new page. Use the arrows to move the new page to the correct location under the appropriate Standard.
7. **Save & Finish**.

INSTRUCTOR

Name: Dr. Bob Spires

Office Number: 1031 Dewar College of Education

Telephone Number: 229-249-2782

Email Address: rwspires@valdosta.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 2pm-5pm
 Thursday 1pm-6pm
 Friday 12pm-2pm at Lowndes Middle School

Teacher Education Dispositions*

Teacher education dispositions refer to attitudes and beliefs about teaching and learning, and professional conduct and behavior. To assist in understanding dispositions, some of the common professional behaviors and characteristics that will be expected in this class are described more fully below.

Responsibility: Is present, punctual and prepared for classes and field experiences; completes assignments on time; is dependable; knows and follows instructor, university and school guidelines and handbooks; exhibits dress and grooming appropriate to setting; is self-directed; accepts responsibility for actions.

Communication: Uses appropriate language; demonstrates ability to speak and write clearly; uses Standard English in writing and speaking; demonstrates appropriate listening skills.

Interpersonal Skills: Demonstrates courtesy and respect for students, teachers, staff, peers, parents, and members of the community; works collaboratively with others; avoids disparaging and critical remarks; establishes positive rapport and appropriate relationships; shows appropriate sensitivity to all students; is open-minded, supportive and encouraging.

Classroom Characteristics: Is positive, enthusiastic, optimistic, patient, fair, empathetic, inquisitive, and resourceful; puts needs of students first; respects individual differences; demonstrates initiative and creativity; is committed to teaching and learning; demonstrates persistence in helping all children succeed; demonstrates awareness and caring attitude toward all students.

Judgment: Demonstrates maturity; exhibits self-control; handles stress appropriately; is able to adapt to change; is able to accept and express different points of view in appropriate manner; uses good judgment; accepts responsibility for own actions.

Ethics: Is truthful and honest; behaves ethically and legally in interactions with others; maintains confidentiality; respects intellectual property of others by giving credit where due; does not cheat or plagiarize; adheres to policies of university, schools and profession.

Self-Reflection: Engages in problem solving and self-evaluation; reflects on decisions made concerning students, teaching methods and subject matter; accepts constructive criticism in a positive manner; uses feedback to make improvements; strives for personal and professional growth.

*Adapted from Mississippi State University COE

Dispositions Contract

I have read and understand these professional dispositions and recognize their importance in this class and in the teaching profession.

Your Signature

Your Name – Printed

Date

Read the Student Contract carefully. After you have read and understood the course expectations, please sign the contract below.

Student Contract

I understand that my instructor and departmental faculty will communicate via the course email.

I understand the requirements for this course as detailed in the syllabus and the course outline, including due dates. The course schedule provides information about due dates, which must be followed. No late work will be accepted.

Communications Skills

Demonstrated mastery of formal Standard English and APA format are required in all aspects of the course. Assignments will be revised until these standards have been met, although points will be deducted each time. Mastery in electronic communication, including review/edit features, how to submit assignments, and how to attach files to emails, is expected. I must monitor course email regularly and inform the instructor of any email problems or changes.

Participation Policy

I am expected to participate in the activities of the course. This class is part of my professional preparation. Appropriate attitude, demeanor, and diligence are required, will be noted, and will be considered. When I am a peer reviewer, someone is depending on me to provide constructive criticism of their work in a timely manner.

Academic Integrity

All assignments must represent my original work. Although I am expected to research literature, I must not plagiarize. I will not plagiarize others, nor will I plagiarize myself by using material that I have submitted previously. I will appropriately cite any information from another author.

Candidate's Name _____

Candidate's Signature _____

Date _____