

E-Teacher: Teaching Critical Thinking

Offered by the University of Oregon, American English Institute

The Office of English Language Programs of the U.S. State Department is offering an online teacher training course on “Teaching Critical Thinking” for eligible candidates. The course will introduce the most recent English language teaching methods and techniques, offer the opportunity to engage in an innovative distance-learning program that employs the latest in modern technology, and provide direct access to U.S. experts with whom participants might not normally have the opportunity to interact.

Course Description

This course is designed to develop critical thinking skills among English teachers and demonstrate how the techniques and materials of critical thinking might be applied to English classrooms in the host country. Participants will learn how to: (1) identify and compare different elements of critical thinking, and apply this knowledge to classroom teaching and materials development, (2) design, develop, and implement critical thinking instructional units and activities to reach course goals, (3) analyze teaching techniques and materials for evidence of critical thinking teaching and student learning, and (4) identify relevant resources for developing and incorporating critical thinking activities in their respective teaching environments. This course will begin in September and run for 10 weeks. Participants who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate. Optional Continuing Education Units (CEUs) may also be requested.

Requirements

Candidates should be highly motivated teachers, teacher trainers or ministry officials who are both dedicated to their own professional development and willing to share their knowledge with colleagues. They should be able to do academic work at a U.S. university (an advanced level of reading and writing, roughly equivalent to a TOEFL score of 525) and understand technical terms in English relating to computers and the Internet. Candidates should also have regular access to the Internet, be able to navigate in Windows and create a Word document, be familiar with the Internet and web browsers, and be able to type in English well enough to perform on-line tasks in real-time and to submit written assignments in a timely manner.

Candidates will be nominated by American embassies and selected in a competitive process. Interested candidates should contact the Regional English Language Officer or Cultural Affairs Officer at the nearest American embassy.