University of North Texas at Dallas
Summer I 2015
SYLLABUS

STEM Literacy Across the Disciplines/3Hrs

Department of Teacher Education and Administration	School of Education and Human Services

Instructor Name:	Dr. Paula Mason
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Office Hours:	By Appointment
Virtual Office Hours:	Emails answered within 24 hours.

Classroom Location:	Online
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Online

Course Catalog Description:	This course is designed to help teachers in all content areas integrate science, technology, engineering, and math into their curriculum to promote STEM literacy for all. The major emphasis will be on practical application of the course content to the classroom setting. Because of the link between traditional literacy and STEM literacy, attention will also be given to using reading strategies in the various content areas to promote thinking and learning.
Prerequisites:	n/a
Co-requisites:	n/a
Required Text: Required Materials:	Vaquez, J. A., Sneider, C. & Comer, M. **(2013)** *STEM Lesson Essentials, Grades 3-8*

Recommended Text and References:	

Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fheg.follett.com

Course Goals or Overview:	
	STEM literacy is an interdisciplinary area of study that bridges the four areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. STEM literacy does not simply mean achieving literacy in the individual strands. STEM literacy means understanding the world in a logical way guided by the principals of scientific thought. A STEM-literate person can think for themselves, ask critical questions, form hypotheses and seek data to confirm or deny them.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student should be able to:	
1	Determine the nature and goals of STEM literacy, evaluate and critique levels of STEM literacy in themselves and their students.
2	Distinguish the guiding principles for effective STEM instruction and create lessons using these principles.
3	Demonstrate how to integrate STEM across all disciplines.
4	Evaluate the needs of students and prioritize them with the goals of the teacher and the curricular demands of subject areas;
5	Design reading and literacy instruction in the content areas that will enable all students to reach educational goals and achievements.

Instructor's Policies and Procedures

Participation Requirements:

For full participation credit, you are required to respond to at least 2 classmates for EACH discussion question on Blackboard. This makes a total of 4 responses to classmates per week, in addition to your 2 initial Discussion Question responses.

Participation posts, as required by the syllabus, should be substantive in nature. For this class, substantive means that your message has substance and helps to further the discussion of course content. Substantive messages will often include contributions of additional ideas and sources, insights or questions about classmates' comments, connections to the course readings, ways of applying the lessons from the course, etc. As a rule of thumb, your substantive comments should be at least several sentences in length.

Short comments, such as "Good idea" or "I agree," do not constitute substantive posts on their own. Neither do comments that are unrelated to the topics at hand (for example, "I saw that movie, too!") If you say you agree about something, please explain why you agree, and add an additional insight or question.

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):
Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students
The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at http://www.untdallas.edu/disability. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDdisability@untdallas.edu or at Building 2, room 204.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:
The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy: All assignments must be completed to pass the course.
Late Assignments: All assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. on the day they are due. Late assignments receive a 10% deduction for each day they are late. Assignments more than 3 days late will not be accepted. Technological issues are not considered valid grounds for late assignment submission. In the event of a University of North Texas at Dallas server outage, students should submit assignments to me via email and when systems are restored, submit those assignments through Blackboard. Unless an Incomplete grade has been granted, learner assignments submitted after the last day of class will not be accepted. Incompletes will only be granted for extenuating circumstances, such as illness.

Exam Policy:
Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

Academic Integrity:
Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf for complete provisions of this code.

Bad Weather Policy:
On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Attendance and Participation Policy:
The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Online participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed. Online participation is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are not present online and for what reason.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:
Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate.

COURSE EVALUATION METHODS
This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

- ✓ *Discussion Posts*
- ✓ *Reflection on Readings*
- ✓ *Graphic Organizers*
- ✓ *Lesson Planning*

GRADING MATRIX
A = 90 – 100 pts.
B = 80 – 89 pts.
C = 70 – 79 pts.
D = 60 – 69 pts.
F = less than 60 pts.

Instrument	Points	Notes
Discussion Questions (Weeks 1-5)	**30 pts.**	Two questions per week; 3 pts. each
Reflection on Readings (Weeks 1-4)	**12 pts.**	3 points each (min. 250 words)
Graphic Organizers (Weeks 1, 2, 4)	**18 pts.**	6 points each
Participation (Weeks 1-5)	**10 pts.**	2 points each week
Reading Strategies		Final Project

Week 5	**10 pts.**	
STEM Lesson Plan Week 5	**20 pts.**	Final Project
TOTAL:	**100 pts.**	