

**Westminster Choir College of Rider University
Department of Music Education**



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**ME 721:
Curriculum
Development
and
Evaluation
Fall, 2009**

Course Overview

This course examines the relationship between curriculum theory and philosophy of music education. Through the study of traditional and contemporary models of curriculum development and evaluation students broaden their understanding of curriculum as it impacts the learning process.

The development of sequential learning experiences for children in school music programs will be addressed in this course as they impact decisions music teachers make regarding what to teach, how and when. The course will look at ways to develop curricula that will be transformative and empowering.

Learning Goals

- (1) To understand the relationship between philosophy, psychology and praxis as they interact in the development and delivery of instruction.
- (2) To understand how curriculum is developed and evaluated.
- (3) To wrestle with issues of schooling as they impact curriculum when it is situated in the community, the school and the self.
- (4) To introduce students to the research literature on curriculum.
- (5) To apply critical thinking to connect ideologies implemented in various curricula to music education.

Course Expectations

1. Prompt completion of all readings and homework as they are assigned.
2. Quality participation on the discussion board and during the live class sessions.
3. All written work must conform to the guidelines for style as articulated in the appropriate style manual. It must be scholarly, well-written, and free of gender bias or jargon. Work that is poorly written will not be accepted and will significantly impact the final grade.
4. Purchase of all required materials.
5. That you will conquer the technology challenges on your own.

Connecting Online

Because this is an online course, there are no traditional office hours. Instead, you may contact me on SKYPE at anytime you see me on-line. Generally, I am available to you in the early morning and later in the evening. A SKYPE account is available as a free download on the web. If your computer does not have a built in video camera and mic, you should purchase one. Staples, Best Buy, Target and other retailers have a wide range of choices. But, I prefer to meet with you so that we can see each other face-to-face. My SKYPE address is **f_abrahams**. You need to add me to your contact list and request that I add you to mine.

You may also e-mail me at the Rider account. The address is **abrahams@rider.edu**. When the Rider servers are down, I use **frankabrahams@verizon.net** as my backup. However, I only check it when the Rider servers are down. Please send me an alternate e-mail address for you as well.

Written work should be deposited into the digital drop box inside Blackboard. Please remember to hit **SUBMIT** and also **OK**. Otherwise, your document is not saved. When sending attachments to the digital drop box, save them as doc or docx files. Include your name in the title of the file.

Meeting the Challenges of this Course

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate fully in this course. Rider University counseling services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the web at http://www.rider.edu/175_555.htm.

This course in particular may be stressful. It is offered on-line and combines synchronous (we are all on-line at the same time together) and asynchronous (we are not on-line at the same time) instruction. That means that you must take the responsibility to schedule the time that you need to complete the requirements and master the course content. Dedicate time each day to work on it and stay to the course schedule. You may also experience difficulties with the technology. Don't give up. Find the appropriate help you need. Contact the Rider Help Line for technology issues at the help desk. That email is: helpdesk@rider.edu or by phone 609-219-3000. If you have issues with the course assignments or content, call me on SKYPE (f_abrahams) or email me (Abrahams@rider.edu).

If you have any learning issues that require an accommodation, you must inform me of these issues no later than the first day of the second week of classes. After that date, I may be unable to make the appropriate adjustments.

What to Buy

Required:

Flinders, David J. and Stephen J. Thornton, eds. *The Curriculum Studies Reader*, 2nd ed. New York: RoutledgeFarmer, 2004.

Gutstein, Eric. *Reading and Writing the World with Mathematics: Toward a Pedagogy for Social Justice*. New York: Routledge, 2006.

Since this is an online course, you need a good Internet connection. You also need a mic and webcam in order to make videos and to send and receive SKYPE video calls.

Grades

You may earn up to 300 points for this course as follows:

YouTube Videos (20 points each)	40 points total
Discussion Board Postings (20 points each)	100 points total
Participation in Live WIMBA class sessions (20 points each)	60 points total
Curriculum Project	100 points total

Course Calendar

The course calendar appears as a separate document and is posted in the Course Documents section of Blackboard.

Other Notes

(1) All work is to be completed on time, be error free, and conform to proper English. This includes postings on the Discussion Board. Remember that you are not sending an IM when you post a reflection or critique on the Discussion Board. Take extra care to differentiate your original ideas from those of other authors. Cite the work of others properly. Know that in the unfortunate instance of plagiarism, the professor will follow the procedures outlined in *The Source*.

(2) You will need a Rider University E-Mail account with EasyPass to access materials on Blackboard. You will also need a SKYPE account and a computer with a mic and webcam.

(3) All of your teaching counts. Grades for assignments that include your making a presentation on video consider the quality of your teaching in addition to the content.

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