



## **Teaching Life's Essentials - Curiosity**

**EDUO 9758 1 Semester Credit/Unit**

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### **Public Syllabus**

## **Introduction**

Welcome to **EDUO 9758**. This class was created as part of a seven course series entitled **Teaching Life's Essentials**. The other courses in the series are:

- **EDUO 9756 Happiness**
- **EDUO 9757 Compassion**
- **EDUO 9759 Resilience**
- **EDUO 9760 Growth Mindset**
- **EDUO 9761 Inspiration**
- **EDUO 9762 Tolerance**

Isn't it true that great teachers are born not made? We say "not at all". With the guidance of the courses in this series, you can take your teaching to a new level; one that brings the highest degree of satisfaction to yourself and your students. Great teachers are remembered not for the knowledge they impart but for the way they encourage and lift their students' achievement, not just in a subject, but in the important skills of living a fulfilling life. These skills of happiness, of inspiration, compassion, curiosity and resilience are essential for both the learner and the teacher. This course will bring research to inform along with techniques and activities to imbue your delivery of required curriculum with the essence of greatness-both yours and your students'.

## **Teaching Life's Essentials - Curiosity**

### **Course Description**

In this course, teachers will cultivate classroom learning through engaging student curiosity while respecting the order of their school.

### **Course Goal**

The teacher will be:

1. Aware of the hurdles in the school environment that inhibit student curiosity.
2. Equiped with activities that promote student curiosity.
3. Able to increase classroom inquisitiveness without creating school disturbance.

## Course Objectives

The teacher will:

1. Read and study given website resources
2. Be introduced to teaching activities that will help increase student curiosity
3. Understand that a good learner is not the same as a good student
4. Use questions to provoke thought and not to find answers
5. Not disrupt the school as curiosity is promoted
6. Communicate with other teachers taking the class about classroom curiosity issues

## Grading Rubric

Exemplary: A+ to A-	Acceptable: B+ to B-	Unacceptable:
Reflective, thoughtful ideas relevant to the assignment are clearly stated	Satisfactorily completes all assignment	Ideas are not clear or relevant
Very well organized	Generally well organized	Shows little or no organization
Responses show that resources have been well understood	Responses show that resources were read	Few or no facts or specific details from the resources
Free of spelling and/or grammatical errors	Writing contains a few spelling and/or grammatical errors	Numerous spelling and/or grammatical errors make the writing difficult to read

## Course Requirements

1. Respond to all *inquiries* in Course Assignments
2. Read all course website links
3. Post at least three comments on the Student Forum.
4. Respond to at least one Forum post made by another class participant.

## Course Assignments

**A full list of Resources, Activities and Lesson Plans will be in the actual course Syllabus.**

## How to Submit Coursework

**Preparation:** Prepare assignments in either Word or PDF formatting. Mac users of Page can save their work as a Word file. Make sure you place your full name, course number and assignment category at the top of each page. Place all R assignments in one document. Do the same for all A and B assignments.

**Document names:** Name each document with your last name and assignment letter (BrownAssignmentsR; BrownAssignmentsA; BrownAssignmentsB).

**Dropboxes:** Place each completed document in the corresponding Dropbox found on the course Moodle page. You will receive feedback from your instructor, but don't wait for it to continue with your coursework.

**Forum Postings:** Submit all Forum postings using the Forum found on the course Moodle page. Label each discussion post with the number of the assignment it fulfills.

## Course Assignments A.

### Learning/Education

Respond to the following before you encounter any of the resources in this course

A1. Do your students complete your assignments because they want to learn or because they want to finish and receive a grade? Explain

Now study the following website resource and revisit and rewrite A2 - with comments

<http://www.teachthought.com/learning/5-learning-strategies-that-make-students-curious/> A5. The

rewrite of A2 with comments

View the following website resource and then revisit and rewrite A3 – with comments

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2014/06/04/33shonstrom.h33.html>

A11. The rewrite of A3 with comments

## B. Teaching Curiosity

View the following website resource

<https://www.google.com/search?q=quotes+about+curiosity+and+learning&biw=902&bih=866&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=OfOBVcjtLNX6oQSw2L-wBw&ved=0CDcQsAQ&dpr=1.25>

B1. Pick one of the many curiosity quote statements in the above resource that you think would best evoke curiosity in students and explain why you chose that quote.

Look over the following four website resources and then complete B3-7

- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/blogs/education/2012/11/curious-about-bringing-curiosity-to-your-classroom/>
- <http://mars.nasa.gov/participate/marsforeducators/>

At first glance these two resources appear to be for high school science or social science teachers, but be creative with ways that these could be useful in your classroom to promote curiosity among your students.

B3. How could the topic and information in the two above website resources be used in your classroom?

<http://engagingmaths.co/2015/03/08/i-wonder-promoting-curiosity-in-the-mathematics-classroom/>

B4. How would you use the technique described in the above resource in your classroom?

<https://www.google.com/search?q=classroom+curiosity+activities&biw=902&bih=866&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=4yqDVbGzG9XaoAT47bvADQ&ved=0CDAQsAQ&dpr=1.25#imgrc=QlzYiuJ0xHy1jM%253A%3BPHrC0mlyEgKE2M%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.carey.com.au%252Fsites%252Fdefault%252Ffiles%252Fbasicpage%252Fclassroom.jpg%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.carey.com.au%252Fteaching%252Ftalentdevelopment%3B1200%3B800>

The above resource has many classroom curiosity building activities. To get more information about the activity in the picture, click on the picture and then click **Visit Page**. Choose three that you think would be the best examples of an activity that would spark curiosity in the classroom. Note – this response is not asking about your classroom as in B3&4 but about classrooms in general.

B5. First choice – explain

B8. **Post a comment in the Forum** about your choice of curiosity building activities and how you intend to implement activities that promote curiosity.

## C. Summary

### The teacher's dilemma

A teacher who is successful in igniting curious minds may come in conflict with a school system that rewards those who stand straight in line.

**Read the following website resource and then view the TED talk**

- <https://educhatter.wordpress.com/2012/08/18/the-trouble-with-schooling-why-do-schools-kill-curiosity/>
- <https://educhatter.wordpress.com/2012/08/18/the-trouble-with-schooling-why-do-schools-kill-curiosity/> **A Ted Talk**

**Your PTA is interested in developing students who are curious. They also want an orderly school. Because of your reputation of cultivating curiosity in the classroom without disrupting the school, your principal has asked you to address the PTA on the subject.**

C1. Write out an introduction for your PTA address.

C4. **Post on the Forum** a short Reflection on the culture of curiosity (or lack of it) in your school

## D. Response to Classmates

D1. Respond to at least one of your Classmate's Forum posts.

