



Teaching Life's Essentials – Inspiration

EDUO 9761 1 Semester Credit/Unit

Instructor – Kathy Vining

<mailto:kvining@dominicancaonline.com>

Public Syllabus

Introduction

Welcome to **EDUO 9761**. 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 9758 Curiosity**
- **EDUO 9759 Resilience**
- **EDUO 9760 Growth Mindset**
- **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 - Inspiration

Course Description

The inspiring educator strives to reach all students; the purpose of this course is to help teachers who aspire to inspire to realize that goal.

Course Goal

To use stimulating resources and assignments to support teachers in their quest to be inspirational influences.

Course Objectives

The teacher will:

1. Read and study inspirational resources.
2. Plan to help students in need.
3. Plan to recognize all students.
4. Determine his/her strengths and best to use them.
5. Communicate with other teachers about being an inspirational teacher.

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 assigned readings and website links
3. Post at least three comments on the online Forum to other class participants
4. Respond to least one Forum post made by another class participant

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.

Class Assignments

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

1. State why you became a teacher. Post this response on the Forum.

View with concentration the following video and then respond to assignment 2.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l48FyAmQNOc&list=PLtmMYLfQBIFCMg0lvSoVLzY-l_ZUOnNvi

See if you can view the following video without crying. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJOYAIL9UVg>

Think back to your time as a student and recall a “Teddy” who attended your school

3. Describe (without identifying by name) the “Teddy” you recall

Search your school for a Teddy. Get help if it is needed from other teachers, counselors, administrators or others.

6. Describe (again without naming) your school’s “Teddy”.

View this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVIKtI7yd_s

7. Outline a collaborative plan for your school to help “Teddy” reach home plate.

Now we are going to go beyond just your strengths, but first read the following website link

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/amanda-kraus/where-are-you-sitting_b_4067581.html

To reach every student (punk and star) you may have to go beyond what you consider to be your forte to create plans. If you are thinking that you may not have that in you (or even if you’re not thinking that) view the following video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCAwXb9n7EY>

Now develop a plan to embark on immediately that will encompass all of your skills (strengths and (still to be developed) gifts) to help you reach every student. Remember that even if you falter, just because you finished this race, you will have reached more “Teddys” and others than if you didn’t develop the plan.

9. The plan

There is a theory called projection that states that one can help create a positive future by viewing in the present what is hoped for in the future. Read the following website link and then project by completing assignment 10. <http://lessonplanspage.com/ianinspiredandinspirationalstudent-htm/>

Because you have worked hard in implementing your plan in assignment 9, you have reached many students. Just as you are to retire, you receive a letter from one such student telling you how much you have helped him/her and that you will never be forgotten. This letter will be assignment 10. Keep a copy and put it in your desk so you will see it every day and let me know when it comes true.

For the conclusion of this class, view the following video and then respond to assignment 11.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-yuQKi-bdo>

Having attained statewide a well-deserved reputation as an inspiring teacher, your state teachers association has asked you to compose a letter to be given to all beginning teachers this coming year. The letter is urging them to reach all students and inspire them. If you think that you cannot write like Abe – remember – even if you pulled a muscle – you finish the race!

11. Your letter to beginning teachers

12. On the **Forum** write a reflection about your own reaction to this course.