

**DOMINICAN
UNIVERSITY**
of CALIFORNIA
School of Liberal Arts and Education

Teaching in the Outdoors
EDUO 9356 3 Semester Credits/Units
Instructor -[Carolyn Catalano](#)

Course Syllabus

Course Overview:

Explore how outdoor classrooms can have a positive impact on student social-emotional skills, increase test scores, decrease problem behaviors, and reduce symptoms of ADHD. Outdoor learning is not just for science topics! Learn how to interweave outdoor learning throughout different areas of your classroom curriculum. While developing your questioning technique, discover the options available for creating an outdoor education program that will help maximize the learning potential of your student.

Required textbook: Teaching in the Outdoors 5th edition by Donald Hammerman, William Hammerman, and Elizabeth Hammerman.

Course Learning Objectives:

- * To explore and identify the outdoor educational settings available to them.
- * To develop their questioning techniques to best support outdoor education.
- * To reflect and identify curriculum conducive to their outdoor learning.
- * To develop lesson plans and performance objectives for outdoor education.

Course Relation to CCS or other Professional Standards

- * Standard 1 Engaging and Supporting All Students in Learning
 - * 1.1 Using knowledge of students to engage them in learning
- * Standard 2 Creating and Maintaining Effective Environments for Student Learning
 - * 2.2 Creating physical or virtual learning environments that promote student learning, reflect diversity, and encourage constructive and productive interactions among students
- * Standard 6 Developing as a Professional Educator
 - *6.3 Collaborating with colleagues and the broader professional community to support teacher and student learning
 - * 6.6 Managing professional responsibilities to maintain motivation and commitment to all students

How to Submit Coursework

Each completed assignment in this course is submitted to the instructor for review. Follow directions at the end of each assignment on how to prepare and submit your assignments. Name each file submitted with your last name and assignment number (i.e. BrownAssignment3. Make sure you place your full name, course number and assignment number at the top of each document page. You will receive feedback from your instructor within 5 days indicating successful completion of the assignment or the need for revision. Assignment grades will be averaged for the final course grade.

Submit completed work to the corresponding Module dropboxes in Moodle

Course Modules / Assignments

Module 1 Overview	Introduce yourself to the instructor
Goals/objectives	The purpose of this first assignment is to introduce yourself to your instructor.
Assignments	<p>Write a bio about yourself, including the grade(s) you currently teach and any prior coursework you have taken on the topic of outdoor education.</p> <p>Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any knowledge you already have on this subject which you want to share. • What you hope to gain from this course. <p>As you move through this course, be sure to post your thoughts in the Course Forum Discussion by starting a new thread and posting on another learner's post. You can post once or multiple times. Let's learn and support each other as we move through this course. One post or reply to a post is mandatory.</p> <p>Submit your bio to the Module 1 Dropbox in the LMS</p>

Module 2 Overview	Read the book: Teaching in the Outdoors 5 th edition by Donald Hammerman, William Hammerman, and Elizabeth Hammerman
Goals/objectives	Read and learn content from the author on teaching in the outdoor classroom.
Assignments	<p>Please keep a personal journal or write in the margins of your book your general thoughts and/or ideas as you read the book. Submit 1-2 pages from your typed or handwritten journal, or if you wrote in the margins, please submit 5 pages of margin notes- photos of the pages with the margin notes is acceptable.</p> <p>Submit your work Module 2 Dropbox in the LMS.</p>

Module 3 Overview	"Where" options. It is important to identify "where" are your areas to engage in outdoor education. What and where are your individual options?
Goals/objectives	Identify where your class could engage in outdoor education within the school grounds, walking distance from the school, and within a short bus ride.
Assignments	<p>Using page 22 and chapter 4 to assist you, please describe where your students could engage in outdoor education in the three types of areas.</p> <p>Within the school grounds Walking distance from the school Within a short bus ride.</p> <p>You may list these or draw a diagram. Describe each of these places in detail along with what might be there to tie to the curriculum. (i.e. walk to the cemetery- listen to birds, feel gravestones, smell the flowering tree to explore "senses" with the kindergarten students).</p>

	<p>This is meant to be a brainstorming, but you may need to do some “walking”, “driving” or “googling” research to identify places you might not readily think of or know about.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● List at least 4 places for each of the three types of areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 paragraph per location is expected. <p>Submit your work to the Module 3 Dropbox in the LMS</p>
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Module 4 Overview	Identify Curriculum Connections
Goals/objectives	Identify 2 or more areas of your curriculum that may benefit from use of an outdoor classroom.
Assignments	<p>Using page 79 to 89 of the required text, explore possible areas of your classroom curriculum that will benefit from use of an outdoor classroom.</p> <p>Select two curriculum areas. For each, explain 3-4 learning objectives that can be supported and how. Create 4 activities for each of the two areas.</p> <p>Submit your work to the Module 4 Dropbox in the LMS</p>

Module 5 Overview	Understanding and applying your Questioning Technique.
Goals/objectives	Develop your questioning technique.
Assignments	<p>Using a questioning strategy has been identified as the “heart” of the exploratory or discovery approach to learning, according to the author.</p> <p>Using chapter 2 page 54-59, go back to your brainstorm of curriculum tied to the outdoor classroom places you identified in module 3.</p> <p>Choose two possible outdoor classroom curriculum topics. Identify one recall, one process, and one application question for each topic.</p> <p>Submit your work to the Module 5 Dropbox in the LMS</p>

Module 6 Overview	Watch videos for a Deeper Understanding of the many benefits of outdoor education classrooms.
Goals/objectives	To gain a deeper understanding of the many benefits of outdoor education classrooms.
Assignments	<p>Watch the video:</p> <p>Megan Patterson: The Nature of Education TED Talk</p> <p>Please take some notes on your thoughts of the TED talk and how it might relate to your classroom. There is no submission for this module. The notes will be useful in creation of your new lesson plans, as well as your course reflection.</p> <p>There is nothing to submit for this Module.</p>

Module 7 Overview	Explore Further and Independent Research
Goals/objectives	Explore the topic of outdoor education further and connect what you learned to current research of outdoor learning/outdoor classrooms.
Assignments	<p>Choose a topic that connects to any course content that you would like to explore further related to outdoor learning/outdoor classrooms. Your research must include 3 articles or websites that connect to the course topic of outdoor learning/outdoor classrooms. Summarize and cite information from each source and submit a 150 word paragraph for each source.</p> <p>Submit your work to the Module 7 Dropbox in the LMS</p>

Module 8 Overview	“Show your learning” Visual information presentation
Goals/objectives	The goal of this module is to empower learners to demonstrate their comprehension and application of strategies for outdoor learning by creating a PowerPoint presentation. This task aims to reinforce their learning and provide an opportunity to synthesize key concepts into a visually engaging and informative format.
Assignments	<p>Create a Powerpoint, Google slides, or any other visually presented activity to show your knowledge of the following:</p> <p>What is outdoor education?</p> <p>What are some benefits to outdoor education?</p> <p>What challenges and advantages surround experiential learning in outdoor environments?</p>

	<p>How can educators effectively leverage these experiences to maximize student engagement and comprehension?</p> <p>Submit your work to the Module 8 Dropbox in the LMS. Contact the instructor if you have trouble uploading your presentation. Google Slide projects must be shared via Drive. Notify the instructor with the shared link.</p>
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Module 9 Overview	Lesson Plan Time!
Goals/objectives	Develop two lesson plans including questioning technique and performance objectives to use in your outdoor classroom.
Assignments	<p>Develop two lesson plans including questioning technique and performance objectives to use in your outdoor classroom. Be sure to describe where the outdoor classroom is for each lesson plan.</p> <p>Submit your work to the Module 9 Dropbox in the LMS</p>

Course Assessment Rubric:

EXCELLENT	ACCEPTABLE	NOT ACCEPTABLE
Meets or Exceeds Course Objectives: A to A-	Majority of Work Meets Course Objectives; B+ to B-	Needs Considerable Improvement: Resubmit Work Suggested: C or below
All work submitted reflects in-depth understanding of course objectives.	Most work submitted reflects in-depth understanding of course objectives.	Work shows little or no in-depth understanding of course objectives.
Assignment responses show evidence of new knowledge evidenced by writing an implementation plan to incorporating outdoor education.	Most responses show evidence of new knowledge evidenced by writing an implementation plan to incorporating outdoor education	Responses show little to no evidence of new knowledge evidenced by not writing an implementation plan to incorporating outdoor education.
Work submitted was organized and clearly articulated.	Most work submitted was organized and clearly articulated.	Work submitted was not organized or not clearly articulated.
Assignment content and required projects were original.	Assignment content and required projects were original.	Evidence that not all assignment content and required projects were original.
Work is free of spelling and/or grammatical errors.	Work has few spelling and/or grammatical errors.	Work has numerous spelling and/or grammatical errors.

Resources:

Teaching in the Outdoors 5th edition by Donald Hammerman, William Hammerman, and Elizabeth Hammerman

https://www.ted.com/talks/megan_patterson_the_nature_of_education