Course Information

Name: Teacher Education in the USA
Teaching Institution: University of North Carolina, Charlotte (UNCC)
Location: Charlotte, North Carolina, USA
Dates: January 11\textsuperscript{th} – February 1\textsuperscript{st} 2014
Duration: 3 weeks
Course contact hours: 21 hours academic classes and seminars; 48 hours of practical components; approximately 20 hours of cultural activities.
Pre-requisites: Participants must have completed a minimum of one year (1 EFTSL) of studies in an education-related course of study (such as primary or secondary education), or comparable practical/theoretical experience.

Instructor Information
The course will be taught by members of UNCC’s College of Education. Practical components of the program are organised in conjunction with several schools in the Charlotte local area.

Materials
Students will be provided with learning materials (relevant reading lists) on arrival at UNCC. During the program students will have access to computing facilities, though students are advised to bring their own laptop if they have one.

Course Description and Learning Outcomes
The Teacher Education and Practice program will give students detailed insight into both theoretical and practical aspects of the US education system. The program is comprised of two main elements.

Academic Classes (21 hours)
There will be at least 21 hours of academic classes, most of which will fall during the first two weeks of the program. There will also be debriefing time and preparatory time for the following week’s activities.

The academic class component will cover the following topics:
- Urban education (2 hours)
- Education for special needs students (2 hours)
- Diversity in the classroom (2 hrs)
- Assessment methodology (2 hrs)
- Use of technology (2 hrs)
- The ‘Standard Course of Study’ (State-based curriculum) in a national context (2 hrs)
- Performance-based pay and related issues (1 hr)
- Teaching to second language learners (2hr)
- Introduction to Charter Schools (1hr)
- The US education system: history, development, function (1 hr)
- Skills development (1 hr)
- Comparative Education (3 hrs)

**Practical Components (48 hours)**
The program will include practical components:

- Observation and Participation in American Classrooms - students will have opportunities to observe American teachers as well as create and lead their own classroom lessons on various topics.
- Visits to American Schools - students will visit the various types of schools in America to learn how different teaching philosophies are applied. Visits will include a tour, classroom observations and meetings with faculty and staff.
- Seminars on American Education - these seminars will provide information about various aspects of U.S. society and education practices.
- Discussion Sessions with Teachers, Principals and Administrators - participants will meet with educators and administrators throughout the class-based portion of the program to converse about various topics related to education and culture.
- Leading a classroom lesson/lessons – individual amount of time spent on this component will vary from student to student.
- Participants will be paired with a UNC Charlotte Education Major prior to their arrival. The purpose of this component is to give participants the opportunity to understand the U.S education system from a pre-service teacher’s perspective.

**Cultural Activities**
- The program will include a significant number of cultural activities designed to give participants an appreciation for US culture and attitudes.

**Learning outcomes**
*Course aim:* To develop participants’ awareness and skills related to the issues, terminology, teaching methods and techniques employed in the US education system.

*On completion of this program, students should be able to:*
- Explain the key issues in primary and secondary education in the USA
- Identify and critically evaluate differences between Australian and US education systems
- Reflect on strengths and weaknesses of the Australian education system from an international perspective
- Interact and collaborate with US students and professionals (teachers and administrators) in a cross-cultural setting
- Describe and analyse differences in models of education between varying types of US schools
- Design and implement a lesson/lessons for students in a cross-cultural setting
- Describe and analyse cultural differences between the USA and Australia

**Course requirements (assessment)**

Students are required to undertake the following assessment.

- Practical classroom work: observation, design and delivery - 40%
- Written final assignment (2000 words) – 30%
- Final Exam – 20%
- Participation (in classes and during visits) – 10%

Australian universities may choose to request additional assessment from students, such as submitting a reflective journal, in order to approve credit transfer.

**Attendance**

Students are required to attend all lectures, presentations, visits, practical and cultural activities that are scheduled as part of the program.

**Class participation**

Students will be required to participate in discussions during lectures, seminars and visits. Participation in these activities will be assessed as 10% of the total assessment load.

**Academic honesty**

Students will be required to comply with UNCC’s policies regarding plagiarism and academic integrity.

**Grading**

The course will be assessed as above and a final notation of ‘pass’ or ‘fail’ will be issued based on a passing mark of 60%.

Students will receive an academic record outlining their performance in the course, along with a certificate of attainment.

**Available Support Services**

The program is fully supported by UNCC’s international office and students will have access to both academic and pastoral support.

Students will have access to campus computing and library facilities to assist them with completing the program’s required assessment.

**Contact Information**

Australian Institute for Mobility Overseas
www.aimoverseas.com.au
Page 3 of 5

Jan14 15/08/13
For further information regarding this syllabus, please contact the Australian Institute for Mobility Overseas:

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