



Midwest Teachers Institute
Teachers Helping Teachers

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MTI 596: Leaders in the Classroom: Closing the Achievement Gap

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name:	Mike Foster
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Instructor Background:	<p>Mr. Foster started his education at Eastern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education. To further his education he earned a Master of Science in Physical Education from Eastern Illinois University, where he was also a graduate assistant and served as an Intern to the Assistant Athletic Director of Compliance. He went on to complete his Type 75 endorsement and received a Master of Arts in School Leadership from Concordia University Chicago. With over 10 years of experience in education, Mr. Foster has gained valuable knowledge as an adjunct professor, speaker, high school teacher, assessment for learning committee member, at-risk reading program member, creator of the community coffee club (Special Services/L.I.F.E. Program), and road to reality committee member. His professional experiences as well as graduate level research provide him with extensive knowledge in education and leadership.</p>

Course Information

Course Format (distance learning, online, webinar, experiential onsite	Online Course The LMS for delivering the course will be Canvas. An invitation will be sent to you by your instructor during the week prior to the start of your
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courses):	course. If you have not received an invitation, please email us at the MTI email address listed above.
Prerequisites	All MTI courses are designed for educators who have a minimum of a bachelor's degree and professional educator license. Prior to beginning the course, check with your district office to ensure that credit will be accepted for salary increase and professional development. All courses are for 3 graduate semester hours/credits from our partnering universities. <u>You can choose which university to receive your graduate credits when you register.</u>
Required Books and Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Textbook: Farr, Steven, and Teach for America (2010). <i>Teaching as Leadership: The Highly Effective Teacher's Guide to Closing the Achievement Gap</i>. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass. ● Internet access ● Lesson plans and unit plans ● Colleague to observe
<p>Learning Outcomes/Competencies: At the completion of this course, the learner will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop big goals that draw on the three principles of strong leadership to meet rigorous learning standards. InTASC 4,5,7,9,10 2. Develop strategies to ask questions in order to guide instruction leading to improved academic progress for all students. InTASC 1,2,3,4,5,7,8 3. Understand how strong leadership skills have an impact on teaching and student morale. InTASC 3,7,9 4. Provide a framework in order to close the achievement gap. InTASC 6,7,8,10 5. Develop an approach to lead diverse students and improve their academic success. InTASC 1,2,7,8,9 6. Identify areas of improvement within planning, lessons, and classroom management. InTASC 3,4,7,8 	
<p>Course Description: Being a leader is something that can come naturally for some, however there are many ways that becoming a good and effective leader can be learned. This course will help classroom teachers develop the knowledge, skills, and techniques necessary to become a successful leader. This course will take a look at case studies, research, exceptional teachers, pedagogical theory, measurable targets, and classroom management to increase leadership qualities in order to improve student achievement. Whether you are teaching in a low-income community, affluent community, or anything in between this course will help you become a highly effective teacher.</p>	
<p>Learning Strategies: Group discussions, professional collaboration, personal reflection, observation, individual assignments (applications, research projects and evaluation essays).</p>	
<p>Experiential Learning Opportunities: Educators will reflect on their current practices and develop the knowledge, skills, and techniques to become a successful leader.</p>	

Assessments		Approximate contact hours for each assessment
Answer and Discuss - Weekly Questions Posted By Instructor to Online Classroom at Canvas Forum. Questions Found On Canvas Classroom. One question per week for 5 weeks. 9 points per question.	45 points	6 hours
Reflect and Respond to 2 Posts Weekly (10 posts total) Made By Colleagues Online at Canvas Classroom Forum. 9 points per response.	90 points	9 hours
Application Assignments#1 and #2 (45 points ea)	90 points	10 hours
Research Project - Due end of week # 4	100 points	10 hours
Evaluation/Reflection Paper - Due end of week #5	100 points	10 hours
Total	425 points	45 hours
Grading Scale: A (90-100%); B (80-89%) <i>*Anything below a B will not receive graduate credit and result in a failing grade of F.</i> If you do not receive a B or higher, your work will be returned to you for further correction and completion. You will be allowed one (1) re-submit to your instructor to achieve a grade of B or higher. If after your re-submit, you still do not achieve a B or higher you will receive a failing grade of F and therefore forfeit the 3 graduate credits.		

Answer and Discuss Rubric- 5 questions @9 points each			
Category	Superior (3 pts)	Sufficient (2 pts)	Minimal(1pt)
Supporting Evidence in Practice ___/3	Response shows strong evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows some evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.

Accuracy ___/3	All supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Almost all supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Some of the supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.
Grammar and Spelling ___/3	Response includes 0-1 mistakes in grammar or spelling.	Response includes a few grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes several grammar and spelling mistakes.

Reflect and Response Rubric- 10 responses @9 points each			
Category	Superior (3 pts)	Sufficient (2 pts)	Minimal(1pt)
Supporting Evidence in Practice ___/3	Response shows strong evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows some evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.
Accuracy ___/3	All supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Almost all supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Some of the supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.
Grammar and Spelling ___/3	Response includes 0-1 mistakes in grammar or spelling.	Response includes a few grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes several grammar and spelling mistakes.

Application Rubric- 2 applications @ 45 points each			
Category	Superior (15-13 pts)	Sufficient (12-10 pts)	Minimal(9-7pts)
Supporting Evidence in Practice ___/15	Response shows strong evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows some evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.
Accuracy ___/15	All supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Almost all supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Some of the supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.
Grammar and Spelling ___/15	Response includes 0-1 mistakes in grammar or spelling.	Response includes a few grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes several grammar and spelling mistakes.

Project Rubric- 100 points			
Category	Superior (20-18 pts)	Sufficient (17-16 pts)	Minimal (15-14pts)

Understanding of web tool ___/20	Shows strong understanding of activity, concept, or tool and maximize learning	Shows adequate understanding of activity, concept, or tool and benefit learning.	Shows little understanding of activity, concept, or tool and may not benefit learning.
Practical evidence ___/20	Shows strong evidence of ideas and insights gained from this course and how they are applied to classroom.	Shows evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to classroom.	Shows little evidence of ideas and insights from this course or how they are applied to the classroom.
Completion ___/20	Completed in a thoughtful and meaningful manner.	Completed, but with minimal quality.	Not all projects are completed and of those that are, some are minimal quality.
Grammar and Spelling ___/20	Includes no mistakes in grammar or spelling.	Includes few grammar and spelling mistakes.	Includes numerous grammar and spelling mistakes.
Sequencing ___/20	Sequenced, showing if-then thinking and the logical order required to complete skill, solve problem, or use tool.	Not always sequenced, showing incomplete if-then thinking and understanding of logical order required to complete skill.	Confusing making it difficult to replicate activities; little understanding of logic or if-then thinking evidenced.

Evaluation Rubric- 100 points				
Category	Superior (20-17 pts)	Sufficient (16-13 pts)	Minimal(12-9pts)	Below Standard (8 pts)
Supporting Evidence in Practice ___/20	Response shows strong evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows some evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows little evidence of ideas and insights from this course and there is little evidence they are applied to the classroom.
Accuracy ___/20	All supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Almost all supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Some of the supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Many of the supporting facts and statistics are inaccurately represented.
Grammar and Spelling ___/20	Response includes 0-1 mistakes in grammar or spelling.	Response includes a few grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes several grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes numerous grammar and spelling mistakes.
Logical Sequencing ___/20	Response is written in a clear, concise, and well organized manner. Thoughts are presented in a coherent and logical manner.	Response is mostly clear, concise, and well organized. Thoughts are presented in a coherent and logical manner.	Response is somewhat unclear and/or disorganized. Some thoughts are presented in a coherent and logical manner.	Response is mostly unclear and/or disorganized. Many thoughts are presented in an incoherent and illogical manner.

Reflection ___/20	Response demonstrates an in-depth reflection on, and personalization of, the theories, concepts, and /or strategies presented in this course.	Response demonstrates some reflection on, and personalization of, the theories, concepts, and /or strategies presented in this course.	Response demonstrates a minimal reflection on, and personalization of, the theories, concepts, and /or strategies presented in this course.	Response demonstrates no reflection on, and personalization of, the theories, concepts, and /or strategies presented in this course.
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Course Schedule
<p><u>Week 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please read chapter 1 and 2 in your textbook. ● Discussion/Activity - Please reply to the week 1 discussion question posted by the teacher. Must be completed by Tuesday night. ● Discussion/Reflection Activity - Read the posts from other students and respond to at least 2. Must be completed by Thursday night. <p><u>Week 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please read chapter 3. ● Discussion/Activity - Please reply to the discussion question posted by the teacher. Must be completed by Tuesday night. ● Discussion/Reflection Activity - Read the posts from other students and respond to at least 2. Must be completed by Thursday night. ● Application Assignment #1. Must be completed by Sunday night. <p><u>Application #1</u></p> <p>Develop a project for your content area that allows students to display their mastery. Explain why you chose this project and how it will allow students to display mastery. For the project, allow the students to have control over the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2-3 pages in APA format - Provide examples from course content, personal experience, or a colleague's viewpoint - Cite all sources. <p><u>Week 3</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please read chapters 4 and 5. ● Discussion/Activity - Please reply to the discussion question posted by the teacher. Must be completed by Tuesday night.

- Discussion/Reflection Activity - Read the posts from other students and respond to at least 2. Must be completed by Thursday night.
- Application Assignment #2. Must be completed by Sunday night.

Application #2

What are your classroom rules? If you do not have classroom rules create a list that can be displayed in your classroom; think about creating rules that are simple yet effective.

How will the rules help with student achievement? How do your rules help with behavior management in class? How will you monitor student behavior?

- 2-3 pages in APA format
- Provide examples from course content, personal experience, or a colleague's viewpoint
- Cite all sources.

Week 4

- Please read chapter 6.
- Discussion/Activity - Please reply to the discussion question posted by the teacher. Must be completed by Tuesday night.
- Discussion/Reflection Activity - Read the posts from other students and respond to at least 2. Must be completed by Thursday night.
- Research project due by end of Sunday night

Research project

Research a topic from this course and find an article that relates. Then write an article review and a personal reflection connecting the article to the course content.

- 3-5 pages in APA format
- Include personal experiences and knowledge
- Reference the course textbook and article in your response
- Attach the article with your assignment
- Cite all sources

Week 5

- Please read chapter 7.
- Discussion/Activity - Please reply to the discussion question posted by the teacher. Must be completed by Tuesday night.
- Discussion/Reflection Activity - Read the posts from other students and respond to at least 2. Must be completed by Thursday night.
- Evaluation Assignment. Must be completed by Sunday night.

Evaluation assignment

Sit in on a colleagues class to observe their classroom management, planning, and leadership. Discuss your colleagues strengths, areas of improvement, leadership, what you will take away for your own class, how your style of teaching compares, etc. Reflect on your own teaching, classroom leadership, and management.

- 3-5 pages in APA format
- Utilize the textbook
- Cite all sources

End of Course Survey

Now that you are finished with this class, please take the time to help us improve our product. In order to make sure that we are providing the best possible service, please take our [survey](#).

We appreciate your help and your commitment to the profession.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is any form of cheating which results in students giving or receiving unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise or receiving credit for work which is not their own. Any academic dishonesty is grounds for dismissal. Any student judged to be engaged in cheating may receive a failing grade for the course, or any other penalty, which the instructor finds appropriate. Academic dishonesty is a behavioral issue, not an issue of academic performance. As such, it is considered an act of misconduct and is also subject to the University disciplinary process as defined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Acts of Dishonesty Include:

- Cheating—intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours.
- Fabrication—intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of information or citation in an academic exercise.
- Facilitating Academic Dishonesty—intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate a provision of the institutional code of academic integrity.

- Plagiarism—the deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, or statements of another person as one’s own without acknowledgement.

Unauthorized Collaboration—intentionally sharing information or working together in an academic exercise when the course instructor does not approve such actions.

ADA Statement

The University abides by the Americans with Disability Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which stipulates that no student shall be denied the benefits of an education “solely by reason of a handicap.” If you have a documented disability that may affect your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Coordinator as soon as possible to arrange accommodations. In order to receive accommodations, you must be registered with and provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Resource Office.

The Disability Resource office will provide Extended Studies with documentation of the disability and any accommodations that are needed.

The ten INTASC standards are listed below. Specific standards for knowledge, dispositions, and performances accompany each principle, but space does not permit listing them below. For a complete copy of the INTASC standards, contact Jean Miller, Director of INTASC, Suite 700, One Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC 20001-1431.

The InTASC Model Core Teaching Standards (April 2011)

The Learner and Learning

Standard #1: Learner Development

The teacher understands how learners grow and develop, recognizing that patterns of learning and development vary individually within and across the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical areas, and designs and implements developmentally appropriate and challenging learning experiences.

Standard #2: Learning Differences

The teacher uses understanding of individual differences and diverse cultures and communities to ensure inclusive learning environments that enable each learner to meet high standards.

Standard #3: Learning Environments

The teacher works with others to create environments that support individual and

collaborative learning, and that encourage positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation.

Content Knowledge

Standard #4: Content Knowledge

The teacher understands the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline(s) he or she teaches and creates learning experiences that make these aspects of the discipline accessible and meaningful for learners to assure mastery of the content.

Standard #5: Application of Content

The teacher understands how to connect concepts and use differing perspectives to engage learners in critical thinking, creativity, and collaborative problem solving related to authentic local and global issues.

Instructional Practice

Standard #6: Assessment

The teacher understands and uses multiple methods of assessment to engage learners in their own growth, to monitor learner progress, and to guide the teacher's and learner's decision making.

Standard #7: Planning for Instruction

The teacher plans instruction that supports every student in meeting rigorous learning goals by drawing upon knowledge of content areas, curriculum, cross-disciplinary skills, and pedagogy, as well as knowledge of learners and the community context.

Standard #8: Instructional Strategies

The teacher understands and uses a variety of instructional strategies to encourage learners to develop deep understanding of content areas and their connections, and to build skills to apply knowledge in meaningful ways.

Professional Responsibility

Standard #9: Professional Learning and Ethical Practice

The teacher engages in ongoing professional learning and uses evidence to continually evaluate his/her practice, particularly the effects of his/her choices and actions on others (learners, families, other professionals, and the community), and adapts practice to meet the needs of each learner.

Standard #10: Leadership and Collaboration

The teacher seeks appropriate leadership roles and opportunities to take responsibility for student learning, to collaborate with learners, families, colleagues, other school professionals, and community members to ensure learner growth, and to advance the profession.

