Eng 592  
Fall Quarter 2014  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES.

This 2-credit practicum is designed to give students opportunities to engage in weekly structured observations of intensive English classes in the UESL Program.

By observing as well as interacting with UESL faculty before and after each observation, students will learn about how teachers conduct classes, plan lessons, keep ESL students engaged, and evaluate performance.

READINGS:

There is no required text for this class. However, there may be assigned articles throughout the quarter. Moreover, students are expected to refer to concepts from present or past MATESOL reading materials in the process of reporting about their observations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Observe at least one UESL class per week. Complete one Observation Report per week and be prepared to discuss the results of observation in class. Reports will be handed in every Thursday and must be typed.

2. On the last Tuesday of the quarter, a 5-7-page paper describing your overall experience will be due, in this paper; you need to reflect on what you learned during the course of your observations. Include the following topics:

   - Language acquisition
   - Key issues in language teaching
   - Characteristics of effective ESL teachers.
   - Cultural and gender issues

Be prepared to give a 10-12 minute presentation in which you summarize – not read- the content of your paper. The presentations will be given on the last Tuesday and Thursday of the quarter.
OBSERVATION GUIDELINES

1. Observe a variety of classes (Oral Communication, Block, Electives), teachers, and levels throughout the quarter. The observation should occur in time for you to have your report ready on Thursday. Remember that as graduate practicum students, you are observing not evaluating. However, observations should lead to questions.

2. Decide which class you would like to visit (always have a second choice in mind) and contact the teacher by phone, e-mail or in person to determine if it is OK to visit and to get an idea of what the teacher is going to be doing on that day. Give yourself enough time so that if you can’t reach a teacher or you discover that an observation of a particular class won’t work, you can find another class to observe.

3. Be on time and try to sit in an unobtrusive location if possible. You are an observer/visitor, so unless the teacher invites you to interact in some way, you are not to do anything more than observe. Since UESL classes usually have no more than 18 students, your presence will be obvious and the teacher may want to introduce you at the beginning or class.

4. You should generate some questions to ask the teacher after observing the class and meet, call or e-mail the teacher for a brief discussion before the report is due on Thursday.

GRADING: S/U

To pass this class, you must complete all assignments. You cannot have more than 2 absences during the quarter unless you have a verifiable medical excuse or a letter requiring you to participate in an official university activity during class time.