

Practicum in Area of Specialization: Social Science Education
CTSE 7910: Fall 2013

Instructor:

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Class Sessions:

Variable

Office Hours:

Tues; Thursday 9:30-11:00
and by appointment

1. **Date Syllabus Prepared:** January 2000, Revised January 2013
2. **Texts:** Textbook and/or other resources (journals, research monographs, unpublished research, etc.)
Selected as appropriate to the individual practicum topics.

3. **Course Description:**

Provides individual students with experiences relating theory and practice, usually in a school setting. The practicum is designed to provide performance-based experience related to the area of specialization. It is designed to provide students with cooperatively selected activities that will assist them in gaining expertise/experience within a selected area of theory and practice. Flexibility is allowed to provide input by students to identify meaningful problems/applications with regard to their current and future professional activities.

In Social Science Education the practicum is the capstone course prior to completion of all requirements for the Masters degree. Students will submit an exit portfolio that includes: a final report of an action research project, a presentation of the research project to a panel of peers and professors, a videotaped teaching segment with reflection, and any other evidence necessary to demonstrate the abilities required by state technology standards. The approved project/product/research/activity effort associated with the practicum should entail a minimum of 30 hours of documented work or involvement for each one (1) hour of assigned credit and a minimum of 10 hours in a classroom-based field experience..

4. **Course Objectives:**

The course is designed to:

- Provide experience closely relating theory and practice in a school setting.
- Provide various and flexible learning activities to afford the student the opportunity to achieve required or desired experience in an area of specialization.

Students will be able to:

- In consultation with the professor, select a topical area of study related to their areas of specialization.
- Write a proposal to guide completion of the study. The proposal will include a description of the study, objectives, methodology to be used in completing the study or project (including resources), and evaluation.
- Present and discuss project outcomes with a panel of peers and professors.
- Submit evidence that demonstrates the technology proficiencies required for effective teaching and learning.
- Submit evidence of study/project completion in the form of a finished practicum product to include a Professional Work Sample that demonstrates advance teaching proficiencies.

6. Course Content and Schedule:

- The course content is developed based upon the individual student's approved practicum proposal. (See attached guidelines for submitting practicum proposals.)
- The length of time expended in the course will depend on the learning experience selected and credit hours awarded for the activity.
- The student is expected to spend a minimum of 30 hours of documented work or involvement for each hour of credit. At least 10 of those hours will be completed in a field experience in a school classroom. Some learning experiences will require more hours than others, depending upon the activity to be accomplished.

7. Course Requirements/Evaluation:

- Attend an orientation session with the professor.
- Identify a topic and obtain approval from the professor.
- Write a proposal describing the study/project and a plan for completing and evaluating the study/project.
- Obtain appropriate written permission to for the school-based portion of the practicum. If the practicum involves research using human subjects, obtain the approval of Auburn University's Institutional Review Board.
- Prepare a review of the literature using the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th edition). (Begin a list of references while writing the proposal and expand it as work on the practicum progresses.)
- Schedule a minimum of six visits with the professor during the semester. (Checkpoints will be established for each meeting.)
Orientation meeting during Week 1
Week 3 or Week 4
Week 6 or Week 7
Week 9 or Week 10
Week 11 or Week 12
Week 13 or Week 14
Submit finished product including Professional Work Sample and Documentation of Field Experience form during Week 15
- Present project outcomes to panel of peers and professors.
- Submit evidence of technology competencies.
- The professor will determine whether the student has met the criteria established jointly by professor and student and will assign an S (Satisfactory) or U (Unsatisfactory) for the course. Weighted components will be the following:

Final product and presentation including a Professional Work Sample	up to 80 points
Proposal	up to 10 points
Meeting with professor and checkpoints completed	up to 10 points

Satisfactory grades will be assigned only to practica that earn at least 70 points.

8. Class Policy Statements

Participation: Students are expected to participate in all class discussions and participate in all exercises. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor if assignment deadlines are not met. Students are responsible for initiating arrangements for missed work.

Attendance/Absences: Attendance is required at each class meeting. If an exam is missed, a make-up exam will be given only for University-approved excuses as outlined in the Student Policy eHandbook: http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/student_policies/. Arrangement to take the make-up exam must be made in advance. Students who miss an exam because of illness need a doctor's statement for verification of sickness and should clear the absence with the instructor the day they return to class. Other unavoidable absences from campus must be documented and cleared with the instructor **in advance**.

Unannounced Quizzes: There are no unannounced quizzes.

Disability Accommodations: Students who need accommodations are asked to arrange a meeting during office hours the first week of classes, or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. If you have a conflict with my office hours, an alternate time can be arranged. To set up this meeting, please contact me by e-mail. If you have not established accommodations through the PSD office, but need accommodations, make an appointment with The Program for Students with Disabilities, 1228 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT).

Academic Honesty Policy: All portions of the Auburn University student academic honesty code found in University Policies (<https://sites.auburn.edu/admin/universitypolicies/default.aspx>) will apply to university courses. All academic honesty violations or alleged violations of the SGA Code of Laws will be reported to the Office of the Provost, which will then refer the case to the Academic Honesty Committee

Professionalism: As faculty, staff, and students interact in professional settings, they are expected to demonstrate professional behaviors as defined in the College's conceptual framework. These professional commitments or dispositions are listed below:

- Engage in responsible and ethical professional practices
- Contribute to collaborative learning communities
- Demonstrate a commitment to diversity
- Model and nurture intellectual vitality

Course contingency : If normal class and/or lab activities are disrupted due to illness, emergency, or crisis situation, the syllabus and other course plans and assignments may be modified to allow completion of the course. If this occurs, an addendum to your syllabus and/or course assignments will replace the original materials.

9. Justification for Graduate Credit

This course will allow individual graduate students to pursue in-depth study of advanced topics within their respective areas of specialization, usually in a school setting. Although guided by the professor at periodic checkpoints, the course requires independent work of the student to design, develop, and produce a product for presentation and evaluation.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

for

Practicum in Area of Specialization

(Prepare two copies: one for the instructor and one for the student)

1. Cover Page

A. Heading: CTSE 7910/7916 Practicum in (Area of Specialization).

B. Professor's Name

C. Title of project

D. Semester and Year

E. Student Information

a. Name

b. Address

c. Phone number and email address

F. Date

G. Contract sign off _____
(Student) (Date)

(Professor) (Date)

2. Body of Proposal

1. The problem, activity or concern and its significance

Discuss the educational problem(s) involved in the specific area of the proposed practicum. Relate theory to practice.

2. Description of the problem, activity, or concern

Describe the features and major dimensions of the proposed problem, activity, area of study, or concern. Indicate and describe the variables associated with the proposed practicum.

3. Supporting evidence

Describe preliminary planning already accomplished, observations made, problems between theory and practice, and review of related literature which provide a rationale for the proposed objectives of the practicum.

4. Objectives

Write the specific objectives to be achieved by the proposed practicum. Each written objective should represent a variable or combination of variables (described in #2) affecting the evaluation of the practicum. Describe variables and explain how they are to be measured or evaluated.

5. Activity Design

Describe the operational plan and indicate why the plan is appropriate for achieving the stated objectives. Describe how you envision the final product and its implications and/or possible contributions.

6. Activity Management

Indicate in chronological order the events and the time frame for their completion.

7. Resources

List the resources needed to complete activities and objectives and explain how they are to be used.

8. Evaluation

A final paper/product is required. Propose an evaluation scheme for the final product which reflects the unique nature of the practicum. Evaluation scheme to be finalized by the professor.