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IMPORTANT:
For student policies and procedures relating to assessment, attendance and student support, please see website, https://education.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/courses/course-outlines/

The School of Education acknowledges the Bidjigal and Gadigal people as the traditional custodians of the lands upon which we learn and teach.
1. LOCATION

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
School of Education  
EDST 5117 Professional Issues in First Year Teaching (6 units of credit)  
Semester 1, 2015

2. STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator: Dr Neville Ellis  
Office Location: John Goodsell 135  
Email: neville.ellis@unsw.edu.au  
Phone: 9385 9506  
Availability: Tuesdays - by email appointment

Other Teaching Staff: Constantine Loucopoulos (Tutor)  
Office Location: John Goodsell 132  
Email: z2133396@unsw.edu.au  
Phone: 9385 8856  
Availability: By email appointment

3. COURSE DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Professional Issues in First Year Teaching</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Credit Points</td>
<td>6 units of credit (6 uoc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workload</td>
<td>Includes 150 hours including class contact hours, readings, class preparation, assessment, follow up activities, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Classes</th>
<th>Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Workshop 1, Fri 6 March, 2015 17:00 – 19:00, TBA</td>
<td>Week 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Workshop 2, Sat 21 March, 2015 09:00 – 16:00, TBA</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Workshop 3, Sat 2 May, 2015 09:00 – 16:00, TBA</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Workshop 4, Fri 22 May, 2015 17:00 – 19:00, TBA</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary of Course**

This course examines the professional issues faced by first year teachers, including the culture of isolation characteristic of many schools, transition shock, workload issues and classroom management challenges. Strategies for addressing these challenges, such as mentoring, peer support, problem-based discussion groups, the sharing of personal narratives and dialogue through face-to-face and online forums, and the completion of an Action Research / Action Learning project.
**Aims of the Course**

This course aims to:

1. Develop critical awareness of the multiple and complex challenges confronting novice teachers
2. Develop, share and implement strategies for meeting the challenges of first year teaching

**Student Learning Outcomes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Assessment/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Identify and analyze the nature and scope of the multiple challenges facing teachers in their first year of professional practice</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Identify practices that contribute positively to the professional trajectories of new teachers, including for example, mentoring, peer support, group problem-solving, collaborative planning, shared narratives, dialogue, and critical reflection</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Implement strategies for addressing particular issues arising in the first years of professional practice by completing an professional Action Research / Action Learning project</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Graduate Attributes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Assessment/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Advanced disciplinary knowledge and practices</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the field of education as it relates to their specialist area of study, and the ability to synthesize and apply disciplinary principles and practices to new or complex environments.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Research-based learning</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of research-based learning and the ability to plan, analyse, present implement and evaluate complex activities that contribute to advanced professional practice and/or intellectual scholarship in education.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cognitive skills and critical thinking</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Demonstrate advanced critical thinking and problem solving skills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Communication, adaptive and interactional skills</td>
<td>18 online postings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Communicate effectively to a range of audiences, and be capable of independent and collaborative enquiry and team-based leadership</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>International outlook</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Demonstrate an understanding of international perspectives relevant to the educational field</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ethical and responsible professional practice</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Demonstrate an advanced capacity to recognise and negotiate the complex and often contested values and ethical practices that underlie education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### National Priority Area Elaborations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority area</th>
<th>Assessment/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Management</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information and Communication Technologies</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy and Numeracy</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students with Special Educational Needs</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Students from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, students are required to meet the following AITSL standards for Proficient teachers:

- **Standard 6: Engage in professional learning**
  - 6.1 - Identify and plan professional learning needs
  - 6.2 – Engage in professional learning and improve practice
  - 6.3 – Engage with colleagues and improve practice

### 4. RATIONALE FOR THE INCLUSION OF CONTENT AND TEACHING APPROACH

New teachers are faced with multiple challenges and often find themselves ill-prepared and under-supported in facing the intellectual, social, emotional and physical challenges of first year teaching, resulting in unnecessary stress and attrition. This course engages directly with these issues. The course identifies and examines the multiple challenges faced by new teachers and supports them in developing and implementing collaborative strategies to address these challenges. In so doing, it also aims to provide novice teachers with the conceptual models and the practical tools, including Action Research and Action Learning, to consolidate and extend the developmental trajectory of their careers as teachers. The teaching approach is premised on the belief that students learn best when they are engaged and given an appropriate level of challenge; when their prior experience and knowledge is valued and built upon; when they are expected to take responsibility for their own learning; and when they work collaboratively with their peers.

### 5. TEACHING STRATEGIES

This course will involve a range of modes of engagement including teacher-student and student-student face-to-face discussions, readings, videos, online discussion forums, and collaborative project work.

**The schedule is as follows:**

- (4 hours) **2 Friday evening classes** (5.00 – 7.00 PM) – 6 March and 22 May
• (12 hours) **2 full Saturday workshops** (9.30 – 4.00 PM) – 21 March and 2 May
• (8 hours - approx) Online postings, reading and commenting as means of sharing of issues and ideas - linked to assessment
• Opportunity to take advantage of a regular weekly drop-in time to talk individually with the lecturer(s)

The concept is to make this course as relevant as possible to your emerging needs by providing a framework for thinking about professional issues, whilst at the same time establishing collaborative communities for ongoing professional support and peer mentoring as a means of assisting you in working through the professional issues you confront in novice teaching.

### 6. COURSE CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Focal Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Lecture /Workshop 1  
Introduction to the course  
Identifying professional issues in novice teaching. |
| 3    | Lecture /Workshop 2  
The importance of collaboration, dialogue and problem-solving in professional practice & exploring the key concepts: Resilience, Reflexivity, Mentoring.  
Research into current issues/trends for Novice Teachers, identifying your professional issues & establishing structures and networks for collaboration, dialogue and problem-solving in professional practice.  
Conflict management / scenarios and solutions. |
| 8    | Lecture /Workshop 3  
Action Research as a means of interrogating and improving practice.  
Why educational research? The role and importance of educational research.  
Different research methodologies for different purposes.  
Action Research: What it is and what it is not. AR as a theoretically informed, transformative practice.  
Developing a research proposal. |
| 11   | Lecture /Workshop 4  
Consolidating professional identity: Intellect, emotion and action.  
Professional learning: professional sharing of learning gained through online discussion groups. |

**Weeks 3 - 12**

**Online participation**

Different online discussion groups are formed around a professional issue. Each group member develops and posts a statement of their a) philosophy b) strengths and c) needs. Each group develops a weekly rotating schedule for leading discussion by posting a topic/comment/question with a related resource or link.

**Priority areas:**

ICT: 3, 4, 8, 14

Mid Semester Break
7. **ASSESSMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes Assessed</th>
<th>Graduate Attributes Assessed</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assignment 1:</strong> Self-study Part 1: A reflective narrative of ongoing issues focused on a particular aspect of, or issue in, professional practice, using the Reflective Thinking Tool as a scaffold/structure, and with links to the literature on reflective practices as appropriate</td>
<td>1000 words</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 AITSL: 6.2; 6.3</td>
<td>Week 6 17 Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assignment 2:</strong> Self-study Part 2: Action Research (AR). Either:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. A detailed proposal for an AR project based on the planning stage of the AR cycle (theoretical), or</td>
<td>3000 words</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 AITSL: 6.1, 6.2 &amp; 6.3</td>
<td>Week 12 29 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. A mini AR project where all four stages of the AR cycle are implemented and documented (empirical).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The issue explored through the research will relate to the student's current or prior experience in school.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assessment Details**

**Assignment 1:**
Self-study Part 1: A reflective narrative

You are required to write a reflective narrative of ongoing issues focused on a particular aspect of, or issue in, professional practice, using the Reflective Thinking Tool as a scaffold / structure, and with links to the literature on reflective practices as appropriate. The Reflective Thinking Tool will be available as a resource on Moodle and during Lecture / Workshop 2.

In crafting your response you will need to consider:
- Definition of the problem or issue
- Contextual issues, underlying factors or other dilemmas framing the problem or issue
• Relevant personal core qualities (beliefs, identities, ideals) that you can draw on – or may need to modify – in order to influence the situation
• Potential solutions to the problem or issue and evaluation of the potential solution including the pros and cons
• Lessons learned and/or implications for the future

Assignment 2:
Self-study Part 2: Action Research (AR).

You are required to chose and complete one of the following, either:

1. A detailed proposal for an AR project based on the planning stage of the AR cycle (theoretical), or
2. A mini AR project where all four stages of the AR cycle are implemented and documented (empirical).

The issue explored through the research will relate to your current or prior experience in school.

In planning your action research project you will need to identify an area of your practice that you would like to change or improve. You will then need to consider such things as:

• What is your concern - the difficulty, problem or desirable improvement to be made?
• Why are you concerned?
• What do you think you could do about it?
• What are your 'hunches' - if any - about the likely causes and outcomes?
• Would it be useful to explore aspects of your successful practice, trying to find out why things went well for some students?
• What exactly will you need to investigate? Can you formulate the nature of the investigation in two or three key questions?
• What will you need to know in order to explore your key questions? What kind of evidence could you collect in order to acquire such knowledge and to help you make some judgement about what is happening?
• Who might you want to work with? Will you work alone or collaboratively?
• What are the likely sources of data? Where, when and how can data be collected?
• Will there be any ethical issues or issues of confidentiality that need to be considered and addressed?
• How will observations for each activity or stage be recorded? What will be the likely scale, timing and location of each exercise?
• How will data from each exercise be analysed? Will they be quantifiable? Will you have to make qualitative judgements? If so, how?
• How would you check that your judgement about what has happened is reasonable, fair and accurate?
• Who will need to know or benefit from the results of your enquiry and how will you inform them?
• How might your practice be affected by the results of this exercise and how will you set time aside for reflection?
### SPECIFIC CRITERIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Understanding of the question or issue and the key concepts involved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Detailed record of reflective activities focused on a particular aspect/s or issue relevant to the professional practice of the novice teacher;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depth of analysis and/or critique in response to the task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Use of critical reflection for analysis and evaluation;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Evidence of developing ability to make insightful connections between reflection on practice, research findings, and ongoing development as a beginning teacher.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Familiarity with and relevance of professional and/or research literature used to support response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Evidence of a wide selection of relevant literature on the professional issue(s) and reflective practices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure and organisation of response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Appropriateness of overall structure of the response to the task;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Clarity and coherence of response to the task, including use of section headings, introductions, and summaries to enhance readability.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presentation of response according to appropriate academic and linguistic conventions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Clarity, consistency and appropriateness of conventions for quoting, paraphrasing, attributing sources of information, and listing references;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Clarity and consistency in presenting tables and diagrams;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Clarity and appropriateness of sentence structure, vocabulary use, spelling, punctuation and word length.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GENERAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT TIME

Lecturer: ___________________________  Date: ____________

Recommended: /20  (FL PS CR DN HD)  Weighting: 35%

NB: The ticks in the various boxes are designed to provide feedback to students; they are not given equal weight in determining the recommended grade. Depending on the nature of the assessment task, lecturers may also contextualize and/or amend these specific criteria. The recommended grade is tentative only, subject to standardisation processes and approval by the School of Education Learning and Teaching Committee.
**UNSW SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**  
**FEEDBACK SHEET**  
**EDST5117 PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN FIRST YEAR TEACHING**

**Student Name:**  
**Student No.:**  
**Assessment Task:** Self Study Part 2: Professional Action Research / Action Learning

### SPECIFIC CRITERIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Understanding of the question or issue and the key concepts involved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• A professional Action Research / Action Learning report explicitly linked to a specific issue(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Report includes details of activities undertaken (empirical or conceptual work)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depth of analysis and/or critique in response to the task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Evidence of ability to insightfully connect practice with theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Evidence of in-depth critical reflection in relation to the action research / action learning experience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Familiarity with and relevance of professional and/or research literature used to support response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Evidences of insightful and effective use of relevant selected literature to support the analysis and investigation of the key issue(s).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure and organisation of response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Appropriateness of overall structure of the response to the task;</td>
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<td>• Clarity and coherence of response to the task, including use of section headings, introductions, and summaries to enhance readability.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GENERAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT TIME

**Lecturer**  
**Date**

**Recommended:** /20  
**Weighting:** 65%

NB: The ticks in the various boxes are designed to provide feedback to students; they are not given equal weight in determining the recommended grade. Depending on the nature of the assessment task, lecturers may also contextualize and/or amend these specific criteria. **The recommended grade is tentative only, subject to standardisation processes and approval by the School of Education Learning and Teaching Committee.**
8. RESOURCES

Readings – Teacher Professional Issues:


**Scholarly Journals:**

Teachers and Teaching: Theory and Practice
The Asia-Pacific Journal of Teacher Education
Teacher Education Quarterley
Teaching Education

**Readings – Action Research and Action Learning:**


**Scholarly Journals:**

Action Research
Action Research International
Educational Action Research