



EDUC 490 (K)
Seminar 1 - International Baccalaureate
Primary Years Programme - Winter Term 1

Course Description

This weekly seminar will provide teacher candidates with an opportunity to come together to explore the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP). The students will explore the IB Standards and Practices in order to gain an overall understanding of the goals of the programme. Using an inquiry based approach, students will develop an understanding of the philosophy and pedagogy of the PYP. Through instructor- and student-generated questions, weekly focus topics, as well as an exploration into key components of the PYP such as international-mindedness, transdisciplinary themes, concept-based teaching, approaches to learning, taking action, and the Learner Profile attributes and attitudes, teacher candidates will construct and re-shape their newly emerging IB understandings over the course of the year.

To promote connections, collaborations and a learning community, an inquiry stance will be encouraged based on the Learner Profile. It is expected that students will become :

- Communicators/Thinkers by sharing ideas and building on the thoughts of others,
- Inquirers by asking questions, wondering, and challenging their thinking and that of others,
- Caring/Principled by being personally committed to the weekly cohort sessions and by being actively involved,
- Open-minded to new ideas, even conflicting ones,
- Risk-takers/Reflective by trying new things and entertaining new ways of doing or thinking.

Assessment and Evaluation Criteria

Attendance and Participation

As the majority of this seminar is based on discussion, weekly attendance is mandatory and active participation is the expectation. Barring extraordinary circumstances, absences must be approved in advance by the instructor.

Reflection Blog

- Teacher candidates will document their learning and wonderings throughout this seminar in the form of a blog, the format of which will be determined by the teacher candidates and the instructor. This will be set up in early September as a cohort.



- Criteria for this assignment will be co-created with teacher candidates. It is expected that they will provide evidence of their evolving learning through personal writing, readings, images, practicum experiences, and most importantly through discussion with peers.
- The blog carries forward into the next IB seminar and is included in the Teacher Education Program capstone ePortfolio in EDUC 452.

Bibliography

Barell, J. (2008). *Why Are All School Buses Always Yellow?* Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.
Davidson, S. & Carber, S. (Eds.), *Taking the PYP forward: The future of the IB Primary Years Programme*. Suffolk, UK: John Catt Educational Ltd.

*International Baccalaureate Organization. (2009). *Making the PYP Happen : A curriculum Framework for International Primary Education*. Retrieved from
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*International Baccalaureate Organization (2009). *The Primary Years Programme : A Basis for Practise*. Retrieved from
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*International Baccalaureate Organization (2013). *What is an IB Education?* Retrieved from
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*International Baccalaureate Organization (2012). *The IB : Primary Years Programme*. Retrieved from
https://www.ibo.org/myib/digitaltoolkit/files/brochures/IBPYP_EN.pdf

*Please note that access to these documents from the IB Online Curriculum Center will be available once teacher candidates have applied for certification