

ED 591 Workshop: Best Practices in American Indian Education (2cr)

Instructor: Dr. Martin Reinhardt

Location: On-line via RamCT

Contact Information: Students are encouraged to utilize the RamCT E-mail function as their primary method of communication with course instructor. For emergency situations or situations requiring direct communication please call (303) 623-5531 or (720) 209-5190.

Seminar Schedule: This is a 16 week seminar. Participants will be expected to complete each module as scheduled, and must have all work completed by the end of the semester. Classes begin on Jan. 22 and end on May 9, 2008.

Seminar Description: This seminar is a survey of best practices in American Indian education. Seminar participants will be required to research and compare and contrast federal, state, tribal and privately funded Indian education projects. Based on their findings, assigned readings, class discussions, and guest presentations, participants will help develop a Best Practices in American Indian Education manual that will be used for future seminar offerings. A mix of synchronous and asynchronous delivery. Intensive use of discussion forum. Live recorded chats with American Indian education professionals.

Seminar Goal: The primary goal for this seminar is to help educators develop their critical analysis skills in the practice of American Indian education.

Objective 1: Reflect on personal experience as it relates to best practices in American Indian education.

Objective 2: Engage in high level, text-based, theoretical, discussions about best practices in American Indian education from both an historical and contemporary perspective.

Objective 3: Interact with American Indian education professionals in a live chat environment regarding best practices in American Indian education.

Objective 4: Compile a manual on best practices in American Indian education based on seminar outcomes for use in future seminars.

Required Materials:

Swisher, Karen & Tippeconnic, John. (Eds.). (1999). *Next Steps: Research and practice to advance Indian education*. Charleston: Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools.

Cajete, Gregory. (1993). *Look to the Mountain: An Ecology of Indigenous Education*. Ashville: Kivaki Press.

Other materials will be available within RamCT or students will be directed to external websites.

Grading System:

Points Received	Activity
40%	Quizzes
40%	Individual Contribution to Class Project
20%	Class Participation
100%	Total

- A = 94-100
- A- = 90-93
- B+ = 86-89
- B = 83-85
- B- = 80-82
- C+ = 76-79
- C = 73-75
- C- = 70-72
- D+ = 66-69
- D = 63-65
- D- = 60-62
- F = 59 and below

Module 1:

What is a best practice? Define it in your own words and post your definition in the discussion forum by the end of the first week. The title of your posting should be “(your first name)_definition”.

Read each of your peers’ postings and compare them to your own. Reply to at least 2 of your peers’ postings and let them know how your definitions are similar or different.

Reading assignments for this module include:

Next Steps pages 33-52.

Look to the Mountain pages 11-41.

Answer the questions related to the reading assignments under Quiz 1.

Module 2:

Answer the following questions in the discussion forum: What were my best and worst American Indian educational experiences?

Post your answers in the discussion forum by the end of the third week. The title of your posting should be “(your first name)_experiences”. Read each of your peers’ postings and

compare at least two postings with your own and let them know the similarities and differences between your's and their's.

Reading assignments for this module include:

Next Steps pages 83-106.

Look to the Mountain pages 42-73.

Answer the questions related to the reading assignments under Quiz 2.

Module 3:

One page summary of materials and four questions posted to discussion forum prior to first live chat (date and time to be announced).

Our task for this module is to begin developing a Best Practices in American Indian Education manual. We will begin by surveying multiple projects and programs that are being promoted by the Bureau of Indian Education, the US Department of Education Office of Indian Education, the Kellogg Foundation, and others. We will have a live chat with individuals representing each program or practice that is included throughout the rest of the semester. Our chats will be recorded (and edited) and included in the manual. Prior to each chat, each seminar participant should read through the materials that have been posted to RamCT, **create a one page summary for each project or program, and develop a set of the top four questions you have based on your review.** Participants are highly encouraged to utilize their assigned readings in developing their questions. Your summaries and questions should be posted to the discussion forum prior to the appropriate chat. The instructor will choose the best summary of each program to include in the manual, along with chat recordings, and the materials that were submitted for review. This manual will serve as an example for future seminar participants. **Check your RamCT e-mail and the homepage often for updates on the live chat schedule.**

Reading assignments for this module include:

Next Steps pages 107-134.

Look to the Mountain pages 74-114.

Answer the questions related to the reading assignments under Quiz 3.

Module 4:

One page summary of materials and four questions posted to discussion forum prior to second live chat (date and time to be announced). **Check your RamCT e-mail and the homepage often for updates on the live chat schedule.**

Reading assignments for this module include:

Next Steps pages 161-178.

Look to the Mountain pages 115-140.

Answer the questions related to the reading assignments under Quiz 4.

Module 5:

One page summary of materials and four questions posted to discussion forum prior to third live chat (date and time to be announced). **Check your RamCT e-mail and the homepage often for updates on the live chat schedule.**

Reading assignments for this module include:

Next Steps pages 179-200.

Look to the Mountain pages 141-163.

Answer the questions related to the reading assignments under Quiz 5.

Module 6:

One page summary of materials and four questions posted to discussion forum prior to fourth live chat (date and time to be announced). **Check your RamCT e-mail and the homepage often for updates on the live chat schedule.**

Reading assignments for this module include:

Next Steps pages 201-235.

Look to the Mountain pages 164-185.

Answer the questions related to the reading assignments under Quiz 6.

Module 7:

One page summary of materials and four questions posted to discussion forum prior to fifth live chat (date and time to be announced). **Check your RamCT e-mail and the homepage often for updates on the live chat schedule.**

Reading assignments for this module include:

Next Steps pages 295-307.

Look to the Mountain pages 186-227.

Answer the questions related to the reading assignments under Quiz 7.

Module 8:

For this module, we will put the finishing touches on the Best Practices in American Indian Education Manual. All quizzes must be completed and any late assignments submitted by the last day of the semester.

Please complete the On-line Seminar Evaluation.