

English 537: Teaching Practicum

Syllabus

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| Course | English 537.001 |
| Time & Location | Mon/Weds 2:30 – 3:45pm, xx |
| Instructors | Wanda Martin & Erin Lebacqz |
| Office Hours | Martin: xx, Hum 339 Lebacqz: MW 1 – 2:30, TR 11 – 12, Hum 249 |
| Contact Info | Martin: 277-5027 or wmartin@unm.edu Lebacqz: 277-6155 or elebacqz@unm.edu |

Course Description

English 537 is designed to support new teachers in the UNM Rhetoric and Writing program. Through hands-on mentoring, classroom observations, research and discussion, and practice, we'll help you develop the knowledge and skills you need to be an effective teacher, including:

- planning effective lessons and activities for your students,
- establishing leadership in the classroom,
- conducting class discussions,
- creating good writing assignments,
- helping students read complex texts,
- organizing peer reviews,
- using various media,
- responding to and evaluating student work .

To make these practical skills useful throughout your professional career, we'll ground them by considering the local community and its culture, referring to the students' textbook, and by discussing selected readings in the field of composition studies.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, a successful student will be able to:

- compose a sequence of activities and assignments that clearly leads students toward the outcomes of a composition course,
- conduct classroom discussions and activities that help students move toward course outcomes,
- reflect on and revise activities and assignments in the light of theory and experience,
- develop and learn from productive collaborative relationships with their colleagues.

Texts

We will read and discuss the students' textbook (Allyn & Bacon Guide to Writing), as well as some articles from the field distributed in class. There is no assigned textbook for English 537.

Readings

Readings are mandatory and are due on the day they are listed on the calendar. You should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned material. Please consult the calendar for reading due dates.

Assignments

Sequence Materials

Calendars, descriptions and goals, writing prompts, and activities will be due for two English 101 sequences and for your first English 102 sequence. Sequence materials may be completed in groups, and will be graded according to a provided rubric, in a conference with either Wanda or Erin. We will ask students to bring portions of each sequence to share with the class as well.

Reflections

After you have finished teaching each sequence, we will ask for a reflective memo evaluating your sequence's strengths and successes, and noting changes you might implement the next time around. Reflections will be written individually and will be graded according to a provided rubric.

Teaching Portfolio

At the end of the semester, we will collect a portfolio in which you will have revised all of your sequences. Revisions may be in response to general experience, reflective memos, learning you've done while visiting the local high schools, conference feedback, and/or indications on the grading rubric.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory and will be noted. Excessive absences will result in a lowered final grade.

Participation

Participation in class is also mandatory. This means you'll be expected to contribute to discussion, work well in small groups, and be prepared for class each day.

Observations

Students will be required to observe experienced teachers and to be observed by their mentors and professors.