

COMMON COURSE SYLLABUS

Murray State University

TSL 580 - 01: Practicum

I. Course Title: Practicum

II. Catalog Description: An intensive observation/learning experience in which participants work in a classroom setting under the supervision of a master teacher.

III. Purpose: To begin students' professional development with respect to professional reflection, teaching philosophy and teaching materials.

IV. Course Objectives: (*Coded for Kentucky Experienced Teacher Performance Standards, NTPS; TESOL Standards, TESOL; KERA Initiatives KERA*) By the end of the course, students in this class are expected to

1. Observe an ESL course(s) and keep a journal of their observations. (*NTPS 6,7; TESOL 3*)
2. Learn to use reflection to inform their own pedagogy. (*NTPS 6,7; TESOL 5*)
3. Design and deliver two 'microteaching' lessons. (*NTPS 3-6; TESOL 3*)
4. Collect previous coursework and newly designed material to begin a preliminary version of their professional portfolio. (*NTPS 1,2,6,7,9; TESOL 5*)
5. Use the reflective experience of the practicum to articulate their own teaching philosophy in writing. (*NTPS 1,2,6,7,9; TESOL 5*)

The EPBS Themes – Diversity is explored as a course topic that students discuss to fully explore the topic. They investigate this theme and how it should be implemented in the language classroom. Students design materials and assessment tools that address this theme.

V. Content Outline: The practicum is designed to be a semester-long experience observing a class or classes from beginning to end. During practicum meetings, we will discuss your observations and use your reflections to begin two major items required in order to complete your degree: a draft of your teaching philosophy and a preliminary version of your portfolio. The practicum will also incorporate teaching experience through participation in microteaching workshops.

VI. Instructional Activities: This class is conducted as a seminar. Students are expected to come to class prepared and to actively participate in all discussions.

All practicum students will meet every other week as a group with the practicum director. This is considered class and attendance is mandatory. The meeting time will be determined each semester.

VII. Field, Clinical and/or Lab experience: Required observation experience for all practicum students.

VIII. Resources: The Murray State University Library and the internet will serve as the principal resources.

IX. Grading procedure: Semester grades will be determined as follows:

Participation at practicum meetings	20%
Teaching/Observation Journal	20%
Microteaching (10 % each)	20%
Practicum Report	20%
Portfolio Project	20%

- **Teaching/Observation Journal:** Pending approval of the instructor, you will find an ESL class to observe throughout the semester. Each time you observe a class, make an entry in your observation journal about your observations, thoughts, ideas and plans everyday you observe. This will form the basis of the reflection you will use to write your practicum report, draft your teaching philosophy and begin your preliminary portfolio. This is a reflective journal, so do not just list all the things you observe.
- **Practicum Report:** You must write and submit a report about your practicum experience. This report should be a reflection on the effect that your practicum has had on your development as an ESL/EFL professional. A good starting point would be your practicum journal. Your report should consider but not necessarily be restricted to the following questions: What exactly did you do during your practicum? Has your practicum turned out as you expected? Are there any observations from your journal that you would like to discuss? What have you learned about yourself and teaching ESL? What is the most valuable thing you have learned? What was the most surprising thing? How has this experience prepared you for your internship?
- **Microteaching:** You will prepare two min (15 minute maximum) lessons and present them to an ESL class while being observed by the practicum, supervisor.
- **Preliminary Portfolio:** You will collect materials to make a preliminary portfolio in preparation for the final professional portfolio required for graduation.
- **Participation & Attendance:** Prompt and regular attendance is required for this course. Your final grade will be lowered if you have excessive absences. Since this class meets once a week (only 14 times this semester) more than one absence is considered excessive.

X. Academic Honesty Policy: This policy is provided in the Murray State Graduate Bulletin at the following address:

<http://www.murraystate.edu/provost/catalogs/G01University.html#Policy%20on%20Academic%20Honesty>

Plagiarism or academic dishonesty will have consequences from failure of the assignment or exam to failure of the entire course. The biggest problem students often have is not attributing materials and ideas to the sources they are from. This is especially easy to do, even unintentionally, when the internet is used heavily in a course. If you do use outside sources at

anytime, be sure to provide full references. Another problem some students have with academic honesty is getting unauthorized help. There are times--especially on quizzes, exams, and some projects--that you are supposed to work entirely on your own without consulting anyone. Make sure you do so at those times. Rest assured that I am an expert in tracing plagiarism and must and will treat all cases very seriously.

XI. Prerequisite: TSL 530

XII. Statement of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity: Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, age, or disability in employment, admission, or the provision of services, educational programs and activities, and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all programs and activities. For information regarding nondiscrimination policies contact the Office of Equal Opportunity, 270-809-3155.

XIII. Required Textbook and other course expenses:

Crookes, G. (2003). *A practicum in TESOL: Professional development through teaching practice*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Additional Polices and information:

Reading: Read the chapters in before the class date for which they are posted in the syllabus.

<p>Submit a printed letter of proposal (with your signature) of what you will do during your practicum to the Instructor. All proposals must be approved and in your file no later than the first week of the semester in which you are enrolled in your practicum.</p>
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