



## 2011 Fall Course Catalog

Merrimack Education Center has gone **Green**  
To view our current course offerings,  
go to [www.Mec.edu](http://www.Mec.edu)

**\* Please Note \***

**Leadership Academy Courses have Limited Enrollment  
Some courses may require textbook or materials fee**

### **EDUC 8650**

#### **Advanced Strategies for Critical Thinking and Problem Solving in the Content Area**

Location: 40 Linnell Circle, Billerica

Instructor: Margi Lanzoni

3 Credit hours

Mondays / Sept. 19 to Nov. 28 / 4 – 8:30 pm

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The purpose of this course is to provide the candidates with the knowledge, skills and understanding to provide instruction in content in an environment of advanced critical thinking. Candidates will learn to guide students to reach beyond the curriculum. There will be in-depth research on Critical Thinking and Problems Solving. Establishing a program which imbeds the multiple intelligence theories including those of Howard Gardner, Erickson, Chapman, R. W. Paul, et al will be imbedded throughout and means of implementation and assessment will be designed, developed and implemented. Social Skills and conflict resolution will be included in accordance with current needs in education (keeping in mind ways to stop bullying and the importance of also developing emotional intelligences in order to reach the goals of leaving no student behind and celebrating various modes of learning. In order to accomplish this important task, teachers must be able to bridge personal teaching styles to the many learning styles of the student population.

### **EDLM 9010**

#### **Cases and Concepts in Educational Administration**

Location: 40 Linnell Circle, Billerica

Instructor: Dr. Diane G. Bemis

3 credit hours

Wednesdays /Sept. 21 to Nov. 30/4PM TO 8:30PM

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A case study approach to problems, issues, and situations encountered in school administration, utilizing current managerial concepts and strategies leading to the exploration of alternative solutions to and methods of dealing with them. Emphasis is on reflective thinking and incorporation of pertinent research.

**EDUC XXXX****Classroom and Behavior Management**

Location: 40 Linnell Circle, Billerica

Instructor: Dr. Dennet Sidell

3 credit hours

Fridays 4:30 to 9pm / Saturdays 8 to 4pm

Nov 4th, 5th / Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> / Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3rd

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course addresses the social, the emotional and the behavioral aspects of the classroom. Course participants will investigate, compare and contrast, and critique the effectiveness of a range of classroom management approaches. Students will examine different aspects of the classroom in order to be proactive and create a teaching and learning atmosphere that will allow all individuals to perform to their highest degree. Central themes of the course include analyzing behavior, developing individualized strategies for addressing challenging behaviors, and creating opportunities for learning effective social skills. The collaborative approach and the process for development of behavior plans as well as Functional Behavior Assessments that are in schools presently will be reviewed and discussed. An overview of the history of behavior modification will be reviewed and how different researchers and clinicians have impacted today's classroom. Students will leave the class with multiple proactive approaches to managing behavior.

**EDLM 8040****Curriculum Leadership and Evaluation**

Location: 40 Linnell Circle, Billerica

Instructor: Dr. Diane G. Bemis

3 credit hours

Saturdays / Sept. 24 to Oct. 22 / 8 TO 4:30 PM

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to provide a foundation of knowledge and skills essential to leadership roles in the areas of curriculum and evaluation. First, the course immerses students in the literature and practice of four significant curriculum traditions (rational/social scientific, academic traditionalist, liberal/ progressive, and critical/transformational). In this part of the course, students explore classic and contemporary texts in the field of education, critically examining connections to contemporary curricular practice and creating a comprehensive Curriculum Resource Binder for their own professional use. Next, students explore the historical, psychological, and philosophical foundations of contemporary curricular practice, designing a curriculum belief statement that connects personal convictions to curriculum practice. In the third part of the course, students explore the dynamics of curricular change in schools, focusing on considerations for their own leadership roles. In the fourth and concluding part of the course, students explore one contemporary curricular issue-- high stakes testing-- and its implications for professional practice in curriculum leadership and evaluation. In addition, students will be expected to design and carry out a pre-practicum experience that meets the expectations of Fitchburg State University.

**SEED 8090****District Based Practicum Equivalent**

Location: by appointment

Instructor: Ed Philbin

6 credit hours

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

To achieve the primary purpose of the Educator Licensure Preparation Program and to ensure overall quality assurance, the Merrimack Teacher Development Center at MEC has designed and implemented a practicum equivalent experience for candidates

of at least one hundred fifty (150) hours in length. The practicum equivalent for the apprenticeship endures for one complete semester (1/2 year or five months full time). The practicum equivalent for the Teacher of Record endures for six months (full time). This intensive teachers' preparation program provides multiple and varied opportunities for the candidates to learn how to provide meaningful and effective educational opportunities. To demonstrate sufficient acquisition of the knowledge, skills and behaviors to the Supervising Practitioner and the MTDC Supervisor by creating and maintaining a portfolio of documentation organized by standard that details the supporting evidence of accomplishment in addressing the requirements of the standards.

## **SEED 9200**

### **District Based Practicum Seminar**

Location: 40 Linnell Circle, Billerica

Instructor: Dan LeClerc

3 Credit hours

Tuesdays/ September 20 to November 20, 2011/ 4 – 7:45 pm

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The course will engage students in an examination of and structured discussions about a variety of topics relating to classroom equity and professional responsibilities. There will be an initial effort to define the notion of a democratic classroom culture, respectful of our national, regional and local civic culture. Students will examine ways in which learning is made accessible to all students and respectful of all forms of diversity and learning styles. There will be a discussion about how to deepen content knowledge, create engaged and collaborative school cultures and participate in continuous professional improvement activities through appropriate professional organizations.

## **PDEV 6548**

### **Europe and Western Civilization in the 20th Century**

Location: 40 Linnell Circle, Billerica

Instructor: Dan LeClerc

3 Credit hours

Thursdays / Sept. 22 to Dec. 1 / 4 to 7:45pm

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This class, conducted in a combined lecture/seminar format, will examine the tumultuous events which shattered European political unity and cultural and military supremacy in the twentieth century. Such events as the Russian Revolution, the rise of fascism and totalitarianism, the two world wars, the cold war with its struggle between socialist and capitalist ideology and the current economic revitalization represented by the European Union will be studied. The class will make use of a mix of print and web-based resources and will involve substantial student leadership and involvement in the conduct of Socratic Seminars.

## **EDLM 8005**

### **Foundations of Educational Administration**

Location: 40 Linnell Circle, Billerica

Instructor: TBD

3 Credit hours

Saturdays / Sept. 24 to Oct 22/ 8 – 4:30 pm

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This introductory course is designed to provide an overview of school leadership by focusing on the philosophical foundations, the psychological foundations, legal parameters, sociological foundations, curriculum issues, futurism, and historical traditions.

## **SPED 7023**

### **Foundations of Education for Special Educators**

Location: Online and one mandatory class: Wednesday, September 7, 2011 (4:30 to 7:30)

40 Linnell Circle, Billerica

Instructor: Dr. Gail Cahill

3 Credit Hours

September 7, 2011 to December 22, 2011

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course includes an examination of the theoretical and practical knowledge of the teaching/learning process with special emphasis on constructivist learning. It will encompass the basic foundations of effective teaching strategies and the adaptation of the curriculum for students with special needs. Concepts to be addressed include the national and CEC standards for teachers, the licensure process, leading theoretical foundations of educational thought and child development, standards-based curriculum, Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, constructivist lesson planning, implementation and assessment, and inclusive practices and classroom community building as it relates to classroom management.

The course will also focus on the role of the teacher, establishing a nurturing environment, appropriate instructional strategies, and reflection/modification of one's teaching practices. Candidates will develop further communication and collaboration skills with peers, parents and other professionals. Focus will also be placed on analyzing the needs of all students in order to develop an appropriate, comprehensive, and student-centered instruction for each individual child. Note: Prerequisite to M.Ed. in Moderate and Severe Disabilities and a requirement to complete a 10-hour field based experience.

## **PDEV 6615**

### **How to Reach the Hard to Teach**

Location: 40 Linnell Circle, Billerica

Instructor: Julie Kirocoples

3 Credit hours

Tuesdays / Sept. 20 to Nov. 22 / 4 to 8pm

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to provide both the inclusion teacher and the special education teacher with some basic tools and strategies to uncover and understand the causes and symptoms of some common learning disorders, including ADHD and, Asperger Syndrome. Participants will be presented with an overview of key neurobiological factors that prevent some students from achieving, as well as offering research-based teaching strategies that support positive, healthy and productive learning environments.

## **EDLM 8010**

### **Human Resources and Personnel Administration**

Location: 40 Linnell Circle, Billerica

Instructor: Dr. Diane G. Bemis

3 credit hours

Saturdays / Nov. 5 to Dec. 10/ 4 TO 8:30P PM

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The focus of this course is on establishing the rationale and organizational structure that supports effective human resource administration. Selection of staff, teacher induction, teacher tenure, promotion and dismissal, compensation and benefits administration, policy making, relations with professional and nonprofessional personnel and employee welfare are among the topics included in this course. Emphasis is placed on the interpersonal dynamics of the educational enterprise as it relates to human resource management. Additionally, issues relating to globalization, technology and professional ethics are explored. (No prerequisites)

**PDEV 6258****Integrating Technology into the Mathematics Curriculum K-12**

Location: 40 Linnell Circle, Billerica

Instructor: Jackie Scheibel

3 Credit hours

Saturdays / September 24 to October 22, 2011/ 8-4:30 PM

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Integrating technology into the math curriculum is designed for elementary, middle and high school classroom teachers, lead teachers and curriculum coordinators who want to develop practical and useful integrated lessons and units for their own use or to share with others.

This hands on course will develop strategies for teachers to evaluate mathematics software and internet sites and use the best pieces to develop integrated math units for their classroom. Units will be developed in coordination with the Massachusetts State Frameworks for Mathematics and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Principles and Standards for School Mathematics. Participants will share an integrated project that they design and will implement in their own classroom or school setting. Basic computer knowledge is necessary.

**SEED 7015****Introduction to Strategies for Effective teaching in the Academic Discipline**

Location: Hybrid / 40 Linnell Circle, Billerica

Instructor: Michelle Zide

3 Credit hours

Mondays / September 19 to November 28, 2011

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This initial-level graduate course focuses on relating the curriculum frameworks in a discipline to the design of meaningful activities which require the application of critical thinking skills in engaging classroom instruction and student assignments. A broad range of contemporary issues facing teachers will be studied. Students will become familiar with differentiated and interdisciplinary instruction. In addition to using a basic textbook, the Internet will be a major source of content for the design of secondary-level student activities.

**EXSS 6000****Legal Issues in Physical Education and Athletics**

Location: 40 Linnell Circle, Billerica

Instructor: Anthony Catalano, Ph.D.

3 Credit Hours

Tuesdays /Sept, 20 to Nov. 30, 2011 / 4 -8PM

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In the areas of physical education and athletics, the words negligence, liability and discrimination are legal terms we should be familiar with and understand. Today, litigation is abounding in our society. There is an ongoing need to be educated in the areas of school related safety and civil rights. This course will provide vital insights into legal responsibility associated with physical education and athletics. Administrators, educators and coaches must be proactive to protect the well-being and individual rights of all

students/athletes. Current school issues, policies and practices in the areas of physical education and athletics will be researched and discussed.

## **SPED 8180**

### **Positive Behavior Supports for Students with Disabilities**

Location: 40 Linnell Circle, Billerica

Instructor: Dr. Dina A. Traniello

3 Credit Hours

9 class meetings: Wednesday / 4:00 PM-7:30 PM

9/21, 10/5, 10/12, 10/19/, 10/26, 11/2, 11/16, 11/29 (Tuesday), 12/7

5-hour online component

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides an overview of evidence-based practices for assessing, planning, and implementing individual, classroom and school-wide positive behavior support. Students will examine research-based strategies for conducting an effective Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) and use the results to design and implement an individual Behavior Support Plan. Students will also become more proficient in designing data collection sheets and collecting and graphing data. Systematic procedures for influencing behavior will be reviewed. We will look at patterns of problem behavior and examine it through a systems approach and explore ways to design and implement classroom and school-wide supports.

## **SPED 8962 (aka SPED 8963)**

### **Practicum in Moderate Disabilities**

Location: By Appointment

Instructor: Nancy Murray Ed. D.

6 Credit Hours

*\* Must be taken concurrently with SPED 8862 or SPED 8962.*

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is the student teaching experience for students who do not have a prior certificate or license. Through a supervised field based experience students are provided an opportunity to develop skills and demonstrate competency in the area of certification they are seeking. This course is one of the requirements for initial licensure.

## **SPED 9002**

### **Research Application**

Location: TBD

Instructor: TBD

1 Credit Hour

*\* To register for this course you will need to contact Fitchburg State University directly*

*\* Must be taken concurrently with SPED 8862 or SPED 8962.*

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This seminar provides a mixture of group planning, support and guided individual study for students in special education who are enrolled in their practicum and ready to work on a specific research project. Students will develop a study design, work in small groups to apply principles of research design and implement a research project in the practicum setting.

## **PDMT 6175**

### **Puppet Power in the Classroom**

Location: 40 Linnell Circle, Billerica

Instructor: Judith O' Hare

3 Credit Hours

Fridays - 4 to 8 pm, Saturdays 8 to 5 / Nov 4 -5, 18-19, Dec. 2-3

#### **Course description:**

This course will provide an overview of puppetry in education and how it can stimulate learning and provide a unique way to assess understanding of literature, social studies, multi cultural issues, and interpersonal relations. Teachers will learn how to construct a variety of puppets/masks, how to use them in an expressive way, and how to use them effectively in the inclusion classroom. Applicable for grades K-12, including special needs, bi-lingual and ESL

**\* There is an additional fee for 'materials' that will be due on the first day of class, payable by cash or check directly to the instructor.**

## **EDUC 8300**

### **Research in Education**

Location: 40 Linnell Circle, Billerica

Instructor: Margaret Reed

3 Credit Hours

Fri. 4:30 to 8pm / Sat. + Sun. 8:30 to 5pm

3 Weekends / Sept. 8-9-10 / Oct. 14-15-16

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this course candidates engage in the scientific reasoning process and reflect upon this process as it relates to the educator's role. The goals of educational research, methods of educational research, reading and analysis of primary sources, developing an education research proposal, using research, and the teacher as researcher are explored. In addition, currently used research strategies such as ethnographic studies and case study approach are included. Emerging educational practices that are research-based will be highlighted. Appropriate inferential and descriptive statistical methodologies will also be studied.

## **EDLM 8050**

### **Seminar: Research in Educational Leadership**

Location: Hybrid

Instructor: Michelle Zide

3 Credit Hours

Sept. 20 to Nov. 29

In class /Tuesdays / Sept. 20 and Nov. 29

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to acquaint the student with the current research in educational administration and to teach the student how to evaluate the pertinence of this research to educational problems and issues. Students identify and use research sources and undertake projects that prepare them to address educational issues in an informed and lucid manner. A pre-practicum experience is included as an activity of this course.

## **EDLM 9000**

### **The Principal: Organization and Administration of the Elementary, Middle and Secondary Schools**

Location: 40 Linnell Circle

Instructor: Jim Picone

3 Credit Hours

Sept .7 to Dec. 7 /Wednesdays / 4 to 8pm

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course addresses the role of the principal as an effective manager of schools at various levels of education. The focus is on the development of the human, conceptual, and technical skills required of decision-making, communication, planning and recruitment, scheduling, public relations, evaluating and contract management. Course assignments reflect the specific level of interest of the participants (elementary, middle, and senior high schools). Nine semester hours of prerequisite core courses are required.

## **ETEC 7800**

### **Using the Computer as a Research Tool**

Location: 40 Linnell Circle, Billerica

Instructor: Eric Groves

3 Credit Hours

Saturdays / November 5 to December 10 / 8 to 4 pm

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will engage educators in a hands-on exploration of strategies for employing computers as a research tool. Computers are the gateway to a rich array of educational resources including the internet and library databases. This course will focus on both a research process and analytical technique. Using critical analysis, students will be able to extrapolate from that research process to apply learned techniques and strategies to all educational research. In addition, the students will use their research findings to enhance their current lesson plans in accordance with the frameworks. A portion of the course sessions will be held online.

**For Practicum registration for the programs listed below, please contact the Professional Development Office at 978-322-2203**

Leadership Programs – Both Principal Preparation & Superintendent  
District Based Licensure / Masters - Special Education / Masters - Secondary Education / CAGS Technology / CAGS Leadership / Masters - Education in Leadership and Management

#### **Registration**

- **To register, email Lisa Lanteigne at [lisalanteigne@meccorp.mec.edu](mailto:lisalanteigne@meccorp.mec.edu) or call at 978-322-2203**
- No registration is complete until payment is received and processed.
- Under-enrolled courses will be cancelled one week prior to the start of class.

#### **Tuition**

- Cost for all courses is \$831.00 for 3 Fitchburg State University credits or \$625.00 for MEC credit.
- **Instructors may charge a materials/ textbook fee up to \$200.00.**

## **Professional Development Points**

- Under the new recertification requirements, 3 graduate credits (FSU) are worth 67.5 PDP's.
- All courses are graduate level courses.
- MEC credit is worth 37.5 contact hours and a minimum of 37.5 PDP's.
- The PDP value of any course is a matter between the individual teacher, his or her district, and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- MEC credit is not Fitchburg State graduate credit. However, the same amount of work and hours are required for either type of credit.
- Transfer form MEC to FSU credit must be completed by the end of the first class.

## **Programs –Certifications- Licensure**

- Transferred courses are only valid if taken within six years of graduation from a Master's degree program.
- No more than 4 courses may be taken prior to matriculation.

## **Payment**

- Cost for all courses is \$831.00 for 3 Graduate credits from Fitchburg State University (67.5 PDP's) and \$625.00 for MEC credit (37.5 PDP's)
- Payment can be made by check or credit card (Discover, MC and Visa).

## **Refunds**

- 100%, less \$25 before 1<sup>st</sup> class
- 50% less, \$25 before 2<sup>nd</sup> class
- 0% after 2<sup>nd</sup> class

## **Class Cancellations**

Occasionally, due to unforeseen circumstances, ie. Snow, power outages, instructor illnesses etc, classes must be cancelled. Cancelled classes are always rescheduled. If the Billerica Public Schools are closed, all classes and activities at the Merrimack Education Center in Billerica are cancelled. Instructors may use their own discretion in cancelling their classes due to inclement weather when Billerica Public Schools are not closed.

## **TITLE IX & NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The Merrimack Education Center is in compliance with federal regulations Title IX, Section 504 and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regulations under Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1972 and does not discriminate in educational opportunities, admissions, recruitment, hiring or employment practices based on race, color, sex, religion, handicap, national rights or sexual orientation.

Every effort has been made to make this publication accurate as of this publication date. It is subject to change at any time at the discretion of Fitchburg State University or the Merrimack Education Center. This publication is not intended to be a contract explicit or implied, and we reserve the right to cancel courses or make changes regarding the information contained herein.

\* Contact MEC if you require special accommodations to participate in any of our staff development activities