Fall 2012 Comment Report
MARY BETH ALLEN

Course Sections

A  REED 523 (523): Analys Instr Tech Read
B  REED 526 (526): Org Impl Eval of Sdch Rdg Prog
C  REED 580 (580): Research Prob Reading

Describe the strongest aspect of this course:

A  • Dr. Allen presented material clearly and encouraged her students to try new teaching methods. She patiently explained and re-explained assignments and course material as needed. Even as an online course, she worked to foster student contributions to discussions.
  • The tutoring project allowed us to implement what we were learning in class while still helping a student.
  • The tutoring project was the most valuable to me. It helped me gain insight on how important good planning is for a lesson to go well and it gave me so much knowledge on comprehension.

B  • Many new ideas for teaching were presented in this course. We were able to better understand key terms used on our profession.
  • Class discussions
  • Group Projects
  • I enjoyed reading the articles to discuss and then the discussions were informative. I also enjoyed when Dr. Allen shared her knowledge with us.
  • I liked learning about the RTI information, phonics, phonic awareness, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The information we learned can be used in my job as a Title teacher.
  • I liked that it was an online course. Everything was available for us online and presented in an organized way.
  • I thought the projects were interesting and I learned a lot from completing them.
  • The class discussions I felt were the most beneficial to the class.

C  • Researching a topic of interest in detail.
  • I would have to stay the strongest aspect of this course is they way the research paper is broken down into sections.
  • Teaching me the process of writing a research paper
  • The best part about the course was the knowledge I gained to help me improve my instruction as a teacher and my writing skills as a student.

Describe the weakest aspect of this course:

A  • Expectations and assignments were not clearly explained making the learning environment very stressful.
  • I didn't really think the small group discussion were effective. The class was already pretty small and the transition going into small group discussion just seemed to take up valuable class time.
Describe the weakest aspect of this course:

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- Professor was not clear on the expectations on the course and was easily irritated when questions were asked.  
- na  
- N/A  
- This course was on the organization, Implementation and Evaluation of School Reading Programs but we didn't learn about very many actual reading programs like I thought the class was about.  
- I think there were classes where we spent a lot of time talking about one topic or spending a lot of time on presentations which caused us to miss out on other topics we were supposed to talk about. I feel like sometimes people were presenting and it was hard to interject which made it seem like we weren't contributing but I didn't want to be cutting people off or interrupt them.  
- I did not feel there was anything I felt was weak. |
| C |  
- na  
- N/A  
- Working independently on developing an Action Research paper, because it was new to me.  
- None  
- N/A |

How do you think this course could be improved?

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- Assignments should be explained in depth not as a quick refresher.  
- The only thing was that we spent a lot of time answering questions on the tutoring project and it sometimes took the whole first part of class. I know sometimes one person could have a question that was useful to everyone but a lot of times the questions were directly related to that one person only. Maybe in the future, there could be time set up a few min before class or after class for people to stay and ask questions so it doesn't cut into the class time. |
| B |  
- na  
- N/A  
- I would have liked to have learned about different types of reading programs so I may be able to see what would work with the children I teach. From the title of the class I thought we were going to learn about different reading programs but we didn't really.  
- Maybe a discussion board could be added to help get students more involved with sharing ideas.  
- Rather than reading articles and having students create PowerPoints to share with the class, I would have liked to read more chapters in the book or read the articles and posted responses on the discussion board. We could also have gone into small groups and then discussed our thinking about the articles and chapters.  
- Again, I do not think anything needs to be improved. |
| C |  
- na  
- N/A  
- I think by adding the additional online optional meetings are helpful for students who would like additional assistance.  
- There were times where a large portion of the class did not apply to everyone. Perhaps making some nights optional for people who had questions might be better towards the second half of the semester. |

Any additional comments?

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- Dr. Allen is a wonderful professor. She is extremely knowledgeable and experienced, and was always supportive of all students.  
- The class was great and filled with useful ideas and information. Dr. Allen's powerpoints were the best I have ever seen and I know I plan on using them as a resource for teaching. She did a great job with guiding each student to get assignments done and to truly learn the importance of how to effectively teach.  
- The course load was very high in this class. The amount of required work was something that would be expected in a 6 credit course. |
The class should be taught by someone that understands that not everyone learns at the same rate. This is supposed to be a learning experience.

Because this was my first course in many years, and my first online course ever, sometimes I was confused by Dr. Allen's expectations, but she was always available to set me on the correct path. I truly appreciated this assistance. I found the course discussions to be very stimulating and am looking forward to my next courses.

Dr. Allen is always prepared for the class she is teaching. I do like that she has all of us working together on small projects. The bigger projects are so much harder to work together when there are class mates that do not get back to you with their information when you ask them to send their information to us.

I enjoyed this class. I thought the projects we did were very creative and I definitely learned a lot from them.

I really enjoyed this class, I liked reading the ppts and articles and then discussing them in class. Hearing other opinions gave me different perspectives. This class provided me with an abundance of information about teaching ideas, RTI, professional development, etc. that I will use to enhance my instruction to provide students with the best practices.

On the first day of class, I thought I would never be able to complete the assignments because it was something I have not done. But, Dr. Allen did a fantastic job by walking the class through each step. For me, having the paper broken down into sections was beneficial. Turning my paper in gave me a great feeling of accomplishment! Thanks, Dr. Allen. Also, this class was online, there were no office hours but Dr. Allen was available to meet online anytime.