



MTI 627: Uncommon Sense Teaching: Practical Insights to Help Students Learn

DISTANCE COURSE FOR DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY

MTI Contact Information:	
MTI Email:	info@midwestteachersinstitute.org
Course Creator	Mr. Pezzuto has an M.Ed degree in Administrative Leadership from Olivet Nazarene University and a Masters of Arts in Teaching from Calumet College of St. Joseph. Mr. Pezzuto is an Administrator in Illinois currently serving as the Director of a STEM Magnet Academy. He has held numerous positions in education such as adjunct professor, curriculum developer, instructional designer and assisted the Calumet College NCATE accreditation committee in 2009. His graduate level research, vocation and experience focused on motivation, effective classroom management, differentiation, and teacher leadership. Mr. Pezzuto has extensive training in facilitating PLC's, CRISS strategies and Ruby Payne's models for education and poverty.
MTI Grading:	grades@midwestteachersinstitute.org

Course Information	
Course Format (distance learning, online, webinar, experiential onsite courses):	Distance Course Once you have registered for this course, your textbook will be sent to the address you used at checkout. The cost for the textbook has been included in your course price, there are no additional fees that apply. The textbook is yours to keep for further reflection at the conclusion of the course. Approximately 45 hours of instructional time is devoted to this course.

	<p>Please see rubrics below for assessment and grading criteria. MTI Instructor will evaluate, grade, and process your final work within 7-10 business days of receiving it. Grades will be posted within 14 days and a grade report via email will be sent to the student.</p> <p>ALL questions, customer service, grades and transcript questions are to be directed to MTI, NOT Dominican University, for this course.</p> <p>All distance courses allow you to work at your own pace as your schedule permits. All coursework is due within one year of the registration date. If you need more time due to unforeseen circumstances, please contact MTI at the address provided above to request an extension.</p>
Formatting Requirements	<p>All assignments should be included in the same document. Please do not submit separate documents for each portion of the course. The first page of your submission should include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • Home address • Email address • School district name, address • Date of submission <p>All following assignments must be submitted in the same order as they appear on the syllabus. Please name your document with your course number and full name (ex. 500JohnSmith). You may submit a Microsoft Word document or a Google document (if using Google, please make sure to allow the grader to comment on the assignments). Any missing assignment will be treated as a zero.</p> <p>Once you have completed all of your assignments, please submit them to grades@midwestteachersinstitute.org to be graded by your instructor.</p>
Prerequisites and Credit Limits	<p>All MTI courses are designed for educators who have a minimum of a bachelor's degree and professional educator license. Prior to beginning the course, check with your district office to ensure that credit will be accepted for salary increase and professional development. All courses are for 3 graduate semester hours (credits).</p>
Required Books and Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet access • Textbook-<i>Uncommon Sense Teaching: Practical Insights in Brain Science to Help Students Learn</i>. Oakley, B., Rogowsky, B., Sejnowski, T. J. Tarcher Perigree. New York. ISBN#:978-0-593-32973-3.
<p>Learning Outcomes/Competencies: At the completion of this course, the learner will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate more learning in the classroom by studying how to make changes in the brain and why it is difficult. InTASC 1,2,9 	

2. Gain a deeper understanding of how the brain functions while learning and specific strategies that should be used while teaching. InTASC 7,8,9
3. Be empowered to make meaningful pivots in teaching practices to increase student success. InTASC 1,3,4,10
4. Keep students motivated and engaged by helping students remember information long-term. InTASC 1,3,4,8
5. Teach inclusively in a diverse classroom where students have a wide range of abilities. InTASC 2,3,8

Course Description: This course is a groundbreaking guide to improve teaching based on the latest research in neuroscience. The course text, *Uncommon Sense Teaching: Practical Insights in Brain Science to Help Students Learn*, equips readers with the tools to enhance their teaching by:

- Keeping students motivated and engaged
- Helping students remember information long-term
- Teaching inclusively in a diverse classroom where students have a wide range of abilities

This course will allow teachers to apply brain research to their classroom in order to improve education!

Learning Strategies: Professional literature analysis, personal reflection, project-based learning.

Experiential Learning Opportunities: Students will be reflecting on the assessments and tools that they develop/learn about in class and measuring/estimating the intended impact on student learning in the classroom. Students will learn by doing while completing a variety of activities throughout the course.

Assessments		Approximate contact hours for each assessment
Text questions-(Ten questions at 9 points each)	90 points	10 hours
Applications- 2 @ 45 points each	90 points	10 hours
Action research project	100 points	12 hours
Study and reflection time		3 hours
Final evaluation essay	100 points	10 hours
Total points possible	380 points	45 hours

Grading Scale: A (90-100%); B (80-89%)

****Anything below a B will not receive graduate credit and result in a failing grade of F.***

If you do not receive a B or higher, your work will be returned to you for further correction and completion. You will be allowed one (1) re-submit to your instructor to achieve a grade of B or higher. If after your re-submit, you still do not achieve a B or higher you will receive a failing grade of F and therefore forfeit the 3 graduate credits.

Text Question Rubric- 10 questions @ 9 points each			
Category	Superior (3 pts)	Sufficient (2 pts)	Minimal (1 pt)
Supporting Evidence in Practice ____/3	Response shows strong evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows some evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.
Accuracy ____/3	All supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Almost all supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Some of the supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.
Grammar and Spelling ____/3	Response includes 0-1 mistakes in grammar or spelling.	Response includes a few grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes several grammar and spelling mistakes.

Application Rubric- 2 applications @ 45 points each				
Category	Superior (15-14 pts)	Sufficient (13-12 pts)	Minimal (11-10 pts)	Below Standard (9 to 0)
Supporting Evidence in Practice ____/15	Response shows strong evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows some evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows little evidence of ideas and insights from this course and there is little evidence they are applied to the classroom.
Accuracy ____/15	All supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Almost all supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Some of the supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Many of the supporting facts and statistics are inaccurately represented.
Grammar and Spelling ____/15	Response includes 0-1 mistakes in grammar or spelling.	Response includes a few grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes several grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes numerous grammar and spelling mistakes.

Action Research Rubric- 100 points				
Category	Superior (20-18 pts)	Sufficient (17-16 pts)	Minimal (15-14 pts)	Below Standard (13 to 0)
Review of Literature ____/20	Outstanding inclusion of major theories and/or research studies.	Inclusion of major theories and/or research studies.	Limited inclusion of major theories and/or research studies.	No inclusion of major theories and/or research studies.
Appropriate and Accurate Results/Findings	Results/Findings appropriately and accurately described in extensive detail in relation to the research questions.	Results/Findings appropriately and accurately described in relation to the research questions.	Results/Findings either not appropriately or not accurately described.	Results/Findings not described.

<i>are Described</i> ____/20				
Grammar and Spelling ____/20	Response includes 0-1 mistakes in grammar or spelling.	Response includes a few grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes several grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes numerous grammar and spelling mistakes.
Methods and Procedures ____/20	Complete and thorough description of data analysis methods.	Complete description of data analysis methods.	Incomplete and/or unclear description of data analysis methods.	No description of data analysis methods.
Conclusions ____/20	Insightful conclusions supported by the data and clearly linked to review of literature.	Accurate conclusions supported by the data and clearly linked to review of literature.	Limited or unsupported conclusions.	No conclusions.

Evaluation Rubric- 100 points				
Category	Superior (20-18 pts)	Sufficient (17-16 pts)	Minimal (15-14 pts)	Below Standard (13 to 0)
Supporting Evidence in Practice ____/20	Response shows strong evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows some evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows little evidence of ideas and insights from this course and there is little evidence they are applied to the classroom.
Accuracy ____/20	All supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Almost all supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Some of the supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Many of the supporting facts and statistics are inaccurately represented.
Grammar and Spelling ____/20	Response includes 0-1 mistakes in grammar or spelling.	Response includes a few grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes several grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes numerous grammar and spelling mistakes.
Sequencing ____/20	Response is written in a clear, concise, and well organized manner. Thoughts are presented in a coherent and logical manner.	Response is mostly clear, concise, and well organized. Thoughts are presented in a coherent and logical manner.	Response is somewhat unclear and/or disorganized. Some thoughts are presented in a coherent and logical manner.	Response is mostly unclear and/or disorganized. Many thoughts are presented in an incoherent and illogical manner.
Reflection ____/20	Response demonstrates an in-depth reflection on, and personalization of, the theories, concepts, and /or strategies	Response demonstrates some reflection on, and personalization of, the theories, concepts, and /or strategies	Response demonstrates a minimal reflection on, and personalization of, the theories, concepts, and /or strategies presented in this course.	Response demonstrates no reflection on, and personalization of, the theories, concepts, and /or strategies presented in this course.

	presented in this course.	presented in this course.		
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Course Assignments

Text Questions: Read and Reflect- (90 points)

Each text question is designed to get you thinking about the concepts provided by the author. As you read the text, use the questions to help you reflect and how the information can be related to your current work. Each response is expected to be one paragraph or more.

1. What are the two most important types of memory for classroom learning? Explain both.
2. Discuss the term *differentiation*, and how you differentiate in your own classroom.
3. Explain the two important ways of remembering.
4. What are some ways we can nudge students away from procrastination?
5. From the list of “principles of effective instruction”, which have you already implemented that have been successful?
6. Discuss *interleaving* and why it is effective.
7. What are the benefits for both expected and unexpected rewards?
8. Discuss the importance of the five characteristics to keep in mind when planning group work.
9. Would you consider mixing synchronous and asynchronous teaching? Why or why not?
10. What type of relationship do you have with lesson planning? Is it required by your district? Do you enjoy writing them? What purpose do they serve for you?

Application #1- (45 points)

Choose one of the following “Now You Try!”:

- Introducing Recall
- The Whip-Around
- Teaching and Utilizing a Classroom Procedure: Lining Up By Number

In 2-3 pages, APA, discuss your experience with the teaching strategy you chose. Some questions to consider:

- Was it effective and would you use it again?
- Did the students enjoy it?
- Did you have any challenges?

Application #2-(45 points)

Using the sample sequence and useful “travel tips” for your lesson planning journey, create a lesson OR tweak an existing lesson. With your lesson plan, include a 2-3 page (APA) explanation of your journey in writing the lesson. Did you enjoy the process? What was the most challenging part?

Research Project- (100 points) 3-5 pages, APA

Learn it, link it! Link it means strengthening connections among supportive educators who encourage one another to extend their skills.

- Want to experiment with a new instructional strategy? Link with another teacher and compare results.

- Need ideas to hook your learners into a lesson? Link with a colleague to brainstorm ideas.
- Struggling to differentiate your material? Link with a special educator.
- Challenged by student resistance? Link with the student, guidance counselor, and parents.
- Trying to keep up with the ever changing demands of the profession? Link with professional development opportunities, administrators, and online communities.

There are numerous ways to “link it”. Choose an idea from above, or come up with your own! Then report your findings and describe your experience. Include your motivation, the process, and share your ideas!

Final Evaluation - (100 points) 3-5 pages, APA

Describe how this course has transformed you into an *uncommon* sense teacher! Touch on all of the important details included in the course text.

End of Course Survey

Now that you are finished with this class, please take the time to help us improve our product. In order to make sure that we are providing the best possible service, please take our [survey](#). We appreciate your help and your commitment to the profession.

The ten INTASC standards are listed below. Specific standards for knowledge, dispositions, and performances accompany each principle, but space does not permit listing them below. For a complete copy of the INTASC standards, contact Jean Miller, Director of INTASC, Suite 700, One Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC 20001-1431.

The InTASC Model Core Teaching Standards (April 2011)

The Learner and Learning

Standard #1: Learner Development

The teacher understands how learners grow and develop, recognizing that patterns of learning and development vary individually within and across the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical areas, and designs and implements developmentally appropriate and challenging learning experiences.

Standard #2: Learning Differences

The teacher uses understanding of individual differences and diverse cultures and communities to ensure inclusive learning environments that enable each learner to meet high standards.

Standard #3: Learning Environments

The teacher works with others to create environments that support individual and collaborative learning, and that encourage positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation.

Content Knowledge

Standard #4: Content Knowledge

The teacher understands the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline(s) he or she teaches and creates learning experiences that make these aspects of the discipline accessible and meaningful for learners to assure mastery of the content.

Standard #5: Application of Content

The teacher understands how to connect concepts and use differing perspectives to engage learners in critical thinking, creativity, and collaborative problem solving related to authentic local and global issues.

Instructional Practice

Standard #6: Assessment

The teacher understands and uses multiple methods of assessment to engage learners in their own growth, to monitor learner progress, and to guide the teacher's and learner's decision making.

Standard #7: Planning for Instruction

The teacher plans instruction that supports every student in meeting rigorous learning goals by drawing upon knowledge of content areas, curriculum, cross- disciplinary skills, and pedagogy, as well as knowledge of learners and the community context.

Standard #8: Instructional Strategies

The teacher understands and uses a variety of instructional strategies to encourage learners to develop deep understanding of content areas and their connections, and to build skills to apply knowledge in meaningful ways.

Professional Responsibility

Standard #9: Professional Learning and Ethical Practice

The teacher engages in ongoing professional learning and uses evidence to continually evaluate his/her practice, particularly the effects of his/her choices and actions on others (learners, families, other professionals, and the community), and adapts practice to meet the needs of each learner.

Standard #10: Leadership and Collaboration

The teacher seeks appropriate leadership roles and opportunities to take responsibility for student learning, to collaborate with learners, families, colleagues, other school professionals, and community members to ensure learner growth, and to advance the profession.