CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
EDCI 1430 Life Science in the Elementary Schools (sec  N1)

Semester/Year: Spring 2015

Lecture Hours: 0  Lab Hours: 2  Credit Hours: 1

Class Time: Online  Days: 20 January-14 May  Room: Online

Instructor’s Name: Tammy Brown

Instructor's Contact Information:
Phone: 235-1364 (Home-Please no calls between 10:00pm & 8:00am-Thanks!)
Email: tbrown@caspercollege.edu Or through Moodle Mail

Office Hours: By appointment
Please feel free to contact me as needed. I will do my best to return calls and e-mails within 24 hours on business days. Weekends and Holidays may take a little longer.

If you need to meet with me in person, I will do my best to schedule you at a time that is convenient to both of us.

Course Description: This course covers selections of basic life science concepts, materials and curricula appropriate for elementary school.

Statement of Prerequisites: You should be concurrently enrolled in or have completed LIFE 1020. Otherwise, you may need my permission to enroll in this course.

Goal: This course is designed to allow students to experience strategies and instructional activities introduced in content courses and to be a link between what the prospective teachers learn and what they will teach. It provides the opportunity to participate in and discuss appropriate activities, strategies, and programs in a teaching area related to the content area being studied.

Outcomes: Students shall:

- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication.
- Use the scientific method.
- Solve problems using critical thinking and creativity.
- Appreciate aesthetic and creative activities.
- Use appropriate technology and information to conduct research.

Course Objectives: As a result of successful completion of EDCI 1430, students shall:

- Make connections between freshman biology and teaching elementary life science.
- Generate ideas for teaching life science activities in the elementary school.

Specifically, the student shall be able to:

- Identify and utilize resources outside the classroom.
- Use peer and instructor feedback on teaching to reflect on and improve practice.
- Select life science content around which to develop classroom units with hands-on, inquiry based lessons.
- Create a link between what they have learned in freshman biology and what they will teach.
- Develop a collection of life science activities for use in elementary classrooms.
**Methodology:** There will be activity based learning, and online forum discussions. Students will participate in online activities, laboratory based activities in their own home, artistic projects, self-led field trips, research, and development of lesson plans as well as thematic units. Your feedback is valuable as the instructor uses course evaluations in determining course methodology.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Grades will be determined through successfully completing activities, assignments, weekly quizzes, and substantially participating in all forum discussions.

Approximate grade distribution will be as follows:

- Activities & Assignments (Average of points earned)
- Forum Discussions (Average of points earned)—see rubric.
- Quizzes (Average of points earned.) (In some cases, quizzes may allow more than one try. When this is the case, the highest score will be recorded.)
  - Exceptions are the Introductory Materials Quiz and Plagiarism Quiz. A score of 100% must be earned on these quizzes in order to receive credit. Multiple attempts are allowed within the 3-day time period.
- Contact me through Moodle Mail. (Average of points earned)
  - These are graded in a similar manner as forum discussions, however the discussion is between the student and the instructor.
  - Only used occasionally on an “as needed” basis.
- Thematic Unit/Lesson Plan (Points earned)

Semester grades will be assigned according to the final percentage of total points possible earned by each student as follows:

- 90% and above = A
- 80%-89.9% = B
- 70%-79.9% = C
- 60%-69.9% = D
- 0-59.9% = F

No late assignments, quizzes, or forum posts will be accepted after they close.

All assignments, quizzes, etc. must be turned in electronically through Moodle. No assignments, quizzes, etc. will be accepted via e-mail, or hard copy.

**Plagiarism:** All quotes or paraphrases must be cited according to MLA standards. Plagiarism in any form will result in no credit for the entire assignment, forum, thematic unit or quiz. Direct quotes may not be more than 25 words and must be properly cited. Paraphrases must be properly cited. Papers, thematic units, field trips, activities, lesson plans, etc. must be original to this course. They may not be recycled or reused from another course. Flagrant or repeated issues with plagiarism will be referred to administrative officials dealing with Academic Dishonesty.

**Computer problems** and technical difficulties arise. Do not wait until the last minute to turn in assignments or to take a quiz. Have a back-up plan and plan ahead so you will still be able to make deadlines should a problem arise. **Computer crashes and technical problems are not generally considered legitimate excuses for late submissions.**

*Always contact me as early as possible if you are having problems with an assignment, an issue at home which is affecting your performance, or technical difficulties. I do care about your success in the course.*
Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.

**Required Text, Readings, and Materials:** Most texts, readings, etc. will be online. They will be within Moodle provided with your assignments, or you will be directed to other websites. You will also be directed to visit museums, libraries or other areas. You will be asked to experience activities "in your own kitchen," which may require you to provide some materials which you may have in your home or you may need to purchase.

Some websites will require you to have Adobe Flash. You can download this for free at:  http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/

The recommended internet browser for the Moodle website is Google Chrome. You can download this for free at:  https://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/browser/

It is your responsibility to know, understand and comply with the technical requirements for distance education at Casper College. These requirements can be accessed by clicking the link below:

http://www.caspercollege.edu/dlc/index.html

_The instructor will contact students through MCC (Moodle Mail)_ and/or _their Casper College email account._ Students should check these accounts frequently for announcements and/or comments.

You will need a reliable computer and printer with a reasonably fast internet connection. Computers do crash and technical problems do arise. In a distance education course, you are responsible for trouble shooting computing problems that arise on your personal computer.

Students may use computers on campus, at home, many libraries or at other facilities that have internet access.

You will need a digital camera or phone/tablet capable of taking pictures. You will need to be able to upload photos to the course.

**Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade:**

Please see the Casper College Academic Calendar

http://www.caspercollege.edu/divisions/academic_calendar.html

_Plagiarism:_ All quotes or paraphrases must be cited according to MLA standards. Plagiarism in any form will result in no credit for the entire assignment or quiz. **Direct quotes may not be more than 25 words and must be properly cited.**

_Course Work:_ Assignments, Forums, and Quizzes will not be accepted after they close. Make-ups are not allowed except under extreme cases. Thematic Units must be submitted by the due date--no exceptions.

_Assignments:_ Papers, thematic units, field trips, activities, and lesson plans must be original to this course. They may not be recycled or reused from another course.

**Attendance/Participation:** Since this is an online class, attendance should actually be called "participation." You will need to check in daily. Check your Moodle Mail messages. Complete any activities, assignments, discussions, quizzes. This course should take you about 1-3 hours per week.

Generally you will have:
  - Activities/assignments to complete Monday-Thursday
  - Forum discussions relating to the activities/assignments Monday-Thursday.
    - You should check into forum even after you have made the required postings. Anything discussed in forum can be on the weekly quiz.
    - Forum is a required activity and allows each of us to provide input and to share our own ideas, experiences, and expertise.
• A short quiz to complete Friday (through the weekend)

Occasionally:
• You may be asked to contact me through Moodle Mail in order to answer some questions that I want to discuss with each person in the class individually.
  o These are graded in a similar manner as forum discussions.
  o You will recognize these discussions because they are listed in the weekly assignments and/or instructions sections of the course.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Academic Dishonesty: (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

In this course specifically: All quotes or paraphrases must be cited according to MLA standards. Plagiarism in any form will result in no credit for the entire assignment or quiz. Direct quotes may not be more than 25 words and must be properly cited. Paraphrases must be properly cited.

Papers, thematic units, field trips, activities, and lesson plans must be original to this course. They may not be recycled or reused from another course.

Flagrant or repeated issues with plagiarism will be referred to administrative officials dealing with Academic Dishonesty.

Official Means of Communication: Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly. This is also, where you will find course evaluation links during course evaluation periods.

In this course specifically: I will send most communications through MCC (Moodle Mail). Be sure to check it daily. Some communications will be sent through your Casper College email account. Be sure to check it frequently.

ADA Accommodations Policy: If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college’s Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

Note: *Electronic Portfolio Requirement for Education Majors: All education students at CC are required to show evidence of program outcomes (artifacts) through the completion of an electronic portfolio. These artifacts will include appropriate pedagogical practices, as well as knowledge and skills of content area as
outcomes for the CC education program. These artifacts are also utilized to demonstrate NCATE (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) and INTASC (Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium) proficiencies. Artifacts will be documented within the electronic portfolio - e Folios – provided via Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and Casper College. Early Childhood Education majors will also be required to document proficiencies for NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) through the use of e Folio for student teaching. Please save all relevant work in this course in electronic format as evidence of meeting course/program outcomes.

**Calendar or schedule indicating course content:**

Each week will generally be structured as follows:

- **Monday through Thursday---Activities/Assignments**
  - Open Monday 1:00am
  - Close Thursday 11:55pm

- **Monday through Thursday---Forum Discussions**
  - Open Monday 1:00am
  - Close Thursday 11:55pm
  - Two posts must be made by Wednesday 11:55pm, third post commenting on someone else’s post may be made Mon-Thurs but is due at 11:55pm on Thurs.

- **Friday---Weekly Quiz**
  - Open Friday 1:00am
  - Close Sunday 11:55pm

- **Final two weeks of the semester**
  - Thematic Unit
  - Due on Monday of Finals week, 11:55pm.

There will be some deviations from this schedule. Exact dates will be posted with the weekly schedule on the course page. Check into the course frequently for weekly schedules and any changes.

**Weekly Topics will be chosen from but not limited to the following** (Order or topic may change due to weather or other circumstances which would provide more optimal timing and/or conditions for certain activities):

- Course Introduction
- The Water Cycle
- Observations
- Inferences
- Leaf Pigments
- Interdisciplinary activities
- Macroinvertebrates
- Adaptations
- Field Trip
- Food Chains
- Closing the Loop
- Academic Standards
- Settings/Formats/Plagiarism
- Thematic Unit & Lesson Plan