

NO SCC #
1972

(P)

Course Proposal: Seminar in British Primary Schools with emphasis in "Open Education".

I. Identification of the Proposal:

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- A. Seminar in British Primary Schools with "Open Education".
- B. Department of Elementary Education
- C. Sponsors: Mr. Lawrence Gurst
Dr. Marion Hodes

II. Statement of Purpose:

- A. This course is proposed as a general seminar for undergraduate and persons currently in the field. It is designed to expand the concepts, particularly in the areas of "open-education", and it applies to early learners.
- B. Course is planned to be offered during the month of June in schools located in Great Britain. It was initially offered in June of 1972.
- C. This seminar will be conducted by Mr. Lawrence Gurst and Dr. Marion Hodes, both of the Elementary Education Department in cooperation with Mr. Stephen Yates of the Kent Educational Authority. Supplementary assistance from various teachers and professors within the British Isles and members of the staff of the Piaget Institute, Geneva, Switzerland.
- D. At the present time resource materials are adequate and facilities of schools and University libraries in England are readily available. Her Majesties Stationery Stores carry extensive materials on British Education.

III. Outline of the Proposal:

A. Essence of the Proposal:

- 1. Course Title: Seminar in British Primary Schools with emphasis on "Open-Education".
- 2. Semester hours credit: 6 (six)
- 3. Course Level and Prerequisites: Undergraduate and Post-Professional. Prerequisites are prior course work in curriculum and methods plus laboratory type experiences (Practicum/Student-Teaching) or teaching experience.

4. Current curriculum pattern into which it falls: Presently the Department of Elementary Education requires 27 hours for specialization (Teaching-Learning: Theory and Practice). Credit Distributions are as follows: A required common core of 18 S.H. of which this course can be used in supplementation to additional hours or possibly as partially meeting undergraduate laboratory field experience requirement. Course can possibly be considered in general studies as Comparative Education for all college persons in general elective considerations. Course division will depend on enrollment of group, e.g. Early Childhood (pre-School) and General Elementary (Ages 5-11) will be separated.
5. Enrollment: Each group will be minimum of 15 and maximum of 20.

B. Details of the Proposal:

1. Uniqueness of the Course: This seminar is designed to provide for expanded laboratory experience in Open-Education in the British Primary Schools. Students will live with families and work in schools for a period of 3 weeks (22 days); total interaction with the school community considered a vital part of experience. Opportunity for travel and pursuit of personal interests and needs is abundantly available.
2. Specific objectives of Seminary:
 - a. To provide an opportunity for teaching experience in an "Open" educational environment.
 - b. To examine theoretical framework of "Open" education as it is currently practiced in British schools.
 - c. To examine culture and life styles of British community.
 - d. To provide travel and broadening experience for our students with persons of another culture.
 - e. To extend the choice of offerings of Teaching-Learning: Theory and Practice.
 - f. To provide for needs of local school communities in the growing demand for ideas and experiences within "Open" type educational experiences.
3. Scope of Course: Emphasis is on living and working in British schools and communities that are "open" in concept or in process of developing such systems.

- a. Identifying and describing professional practice procedures in informal schools in England.
 - b. Describing informal infant school programs in relation to local educational needs and professional outlook of their head teachers.
 - c. Exploring which practices, if any, of the English informal infant programs will be helpful to American school teachers.
 - d. Through a first hand involvement in school of an informal nature students can develop personal insights into nature of "open" environment.
 - e. Students will be able to dialogue with English Educators, Parents, and Community Agents involved in informal school settings.
 - f. Opportunity to become familiar with another culture.
 - g. Opportunity to travel throughout England and Europe.
4. Teaching Method: To follow theme of Open and Informal Learning with emphasis on concepts of Self-Esteem, Student Directed Learning Activities, Integrated day, etc.
5. Evaluation: Students will be encouraged to develop methods and skills in self assessment through personal interaction with fellow students, pupils, parents, English teachers and administrators and Glassboro Staff.
- C. Rationale:

There are many excellent techniques inherent in the Informal British Approach which are worthy of noting and modifying for use in most American Elementary schools. American Education, with increasing frequency as indicated by growing number of national, state, and local conferences, state educational departments interest (NJEA currently conducting study in Open Education this year), and the development of experimental programs, are being confronted with enthusiastic accounts extolling the approaches of primary education which are being employed by a number of schools in England.

There are also a growing number of local South Jersey school districts beginning to develop a variety of brands of informal education and requesting aid from this department particularly with providing opportunities for their staff to gain experience in the aspects of informal education.