



School of Education

EDST 5117 Professional Inquiry

Term 1, 2019

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1. LOCATION

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
School of Education
EDST 5117 Professional Inquiry (6 units of credit)
Term 1 2019

2. STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator: Dr Hoa Nguyen
Office Location: John Goodsell 138
Email: hoa.nguyen@unsw.edu.au
Phone: 9385 8349
Availability: Please email to arrange an appointment

3. COURSE DETAILS

Course Name	Professional Inquiry
Credit Points	6 units of credit (6 uoc)
Workload	Includes 150 hours including class contact hours, readings, class preparation, assessment, follow up activities, etc.
Schedule	http://classutil.unsw.edu.au/EDST_T1.html

SUMMARY OF COURSE

This course examines the professional issues commonly faced by first year teachers in their area of specialisation. Through the use of Action Research and professional inquiry, teachers learned to use Action Research to inform their practice.

THE MAIN WAYS IN WHICH THE COURSE HAS CHANGES SINCE LAST TIME AS A RESULT OF STUDENT FEEDBACK:

6. COURSE CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Module	Focal Topic
Weeks 1-3	Online Moodle Introduction to the course Current Context Identifying professional issues in novice teaching
Week 3 Saturday 9 March	Lecture /Workshops Becoming a reflective practitioner. Identifying professional issues in novice teaching Teacher- as-researcher and Action Research Action Research as a means of interrogating and improving practice. Why educational research? The role and importance of educational research.
Weeks 4-7	Online participation: See MOODLE for more information on weekly activities Online discussion groups are formed around an issue of common concern in the area of specialisation. Each group member develops and posts a statement of their a) philosophy b) strengths and c) needs. Each group develops a weekly rotating schedule for leading discussion by posting a topic/comment/question with a related resource or link. Priority areas: ICT: 3, 4, 8, 14
Week 7 Saturday 06/04/2019	Lecture /Workshops Critiquing action research projects Planning and conducting action research in your classroom or school Developing an AR proposal.
8-10	See MOODLE for more information on weekly activities

7. RESOURCES

Readings –Issues in first year teaching (see more readings on Moodle for weekly activities)

Aubusson, P., Ewing, R., & Hoban, G. (2009). *Action learning in schools*. New York: Routledge.

Assessment Details

Assignment 1:

This course employs a blended learning approach. The two on-campus Sundays will be blended with collaborative online learning using the MOODLE Learning Management System (LMS). You are required to participate in the weekly guided discussion on a Moodle discussion forum. This assessment task must be passed to complete this course. See MOODLE for further information.

Assignment 2:

Self-study Part 1: A reflective narrative (1000 words)

You are required to write a reflective narrative of ongoing issues focused on a particular aspect of, or issue in, professional practice in your area of specialisation, using the Reflective Thinking Tool as a scaffold / structure, and with links to the literature on reflective practices as appropriate and weekly guided discussion on a Moodle discussion forum. The Reflective Thinking Tool will be available as a resource on Moodle.

In crafting your response, you will need to consider:

- Definition of the problem or issue

- Contextual issues, underlying factors or other dilemmas framing the problem or issue

- Relevant personal core qualities (beliefs, identities, ideals) and disciplinary content knowledge that you can draw on or may need to modify in order to influence the situation

- Potential solutions to the problem or issue and evaluation of the potential solution including the pros and cons

- Lessons learned and/or implications for the future

Assignment 3: 3000 words

Using action research as a professional learning activity to support your professional learning

You are required to choose and complete one of the following, either:

1. A detailed proposal for an AR project based on the planning stage of the AR cycle (theoretical), or
2. A mini AR project where all stages of the AR cycle are implemented and documented (empirical).

The issue explored through the research will relate to your current or prior experience in school.

In planning your action research project, you will need to address the following contents

- Introduction

- Statement of the problem(s)

- Need/importance of the study (the need should arise primarily from classroom practice/observations, but also be linked to the literature)

- Review of Literature (definitions of terms and review of relevant studies)

- Methodology

 - Objective/objectives of the study

 - Research Questions

 - Participants

 - Action research procedure (including AR steps, possible intervention, materials used ..)

 - Data collection techniques (including a justification for the methods used and data collection instruments)

 - Data collection analysis and/or interpretation (including a justification for the methods used)

 - Results / expected results and discussion of results. Limitation of research must be detailed

- Conclusion and areas for further development

- References

- Appendices

Identify an area of your practice that you would like to change or improve. You will then consider such things as:

What is your concern - the difficulty, problem or desirable improvement to be made?

Why are you concerned?

What do you think you could do about it?

What are your 'hunches' - if any - about the likely causes and outcomes?

Would it be useful to explore aspects of your successful practice, trying to find out why things went well for you?

Would it be useful to explore aspects of your less successful practice, trying to find out why things do not go well for you?

What exactly will you need to investigate? Can you formulate the nature of the investigation in two or three key questions?

What will you need to know in order to explore your key questions? What kind of evidence could you collect in order to acquire such knowledge and to help you make some judgement about what is happening?

Who might you want to work with? Will you work alone or collaboratively?

What are the likely sources of data? Where, when and how can data be collected?

