

## **E-Teacher Scholarship Program 2012-13**

### ***Critical Thinking in Language Learning and Teaching (CT)***

#### **OFFERED BY UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, LINGUISTICS DEPT./AMERICAN ENGLISH INSTITUTE**

The Office of English Language Programs of the U.S. State Department is offering this 10-week online teacher training for eligible candidates. The course will introduce the most recent English language teaching methods and techniques, offer the opportunity to engage in an innovative distance-learning program that employs the latest in modern technology, and provide direct access to U.S. experts with whom participants might not normally have the opportunity to interact.

#### **Course Description**

This course is designed to deepen participants' understanding of the theory and applied use of Critical Thinking principles and practices in the EFL classroom by engaging in the following types of activities. Innovations this year in the course include an overall deepening of student engagement in course content through the reorganization of course components plus the addition of new materials and reflective and collaborative activities. Ultimately, as a result of the changes, course participants have an even greater active learning experience and develop a greater level of autonomy. Participants will be expected to:

- Read and discuss professional information and articles to develop a deeper understanding of current topics in language pedagogy as they relate to general critical thinking skills.
- Identify, evaluate, and select web-based materials and tools for use in the classroom.
- Adapt and enhance existing materials so that they are culturally and age appropriate for their local schools and learning environments.
- Create classroom materials and projects to demonstrate an understanding of course topics.

By the end of this course, participants should be able to:

- Understand and explain critical thinking concepts and patterns.
- Identify relevant resources for developing and using critical thinking.
- Identify and analyze teaching techniques and materials to incorporate critical thinking in teaching and learning.
- Apply critical thinking to classroom teaching and materials development: redesign and implement instructional units and lesson plans with activities that require critical thinking.

#### **Requirements**

Candidates should be highly motivated in-service EFL educators, teacher trainers or ministry officials who are both dedicated to their own professional development and willing to share their knowledge with colleagues. In addition, they should:

- Have high intermediate to advanced level English language proficiency in all skill areas (approximately 525 TOEFL), particularly reading and writing.
- Have access 4-5 times per week minimum to reliable computers with high-speed Internet.
- Have basic technology skills for email, the Web (e.g., searches, downloads, uploads, managing of course logins/passwords) and file management (e.g., PDF, MS Word/Excel).

***Candidates will be nominated by U.S. embassies and selected in a competitive process. Interested candidates should contact the Regional English Language Officer or Cultural Affairs Officer at the nearest U.S. embassy. For an online list, see: <http://www.usembassy.gov/>.***