

E-Teacher Scholarship Program

Critical Thinking in the EFL (English as a Foreign Language) Curriculum

Offered by the University of Oregon, Linguistics/American English Institute

The Office of English Language Programs of the U.S. State Department is offering an online teacher training course on “Teaching Critical Thinking” 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: (1) 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, (2) identify, evaluate, and select web-based materials and tools for use in the classroom, (3) interact with colleagues regionally and internationally who share similar pedagogical interests, (4) create classroom materials and projects that demonstrate an understanding of course topics, and (5) adapt and enhance existing materials so that they are culturally and age appropriate for their schools’ local curriculum. This 10-week course will be offered in both the fall of 2009 and the spring of 2010.

Requirements

Candidates should be highly motivated teachers, teacher trainers or ministry officials who are both dedicated to their own professional development and willing to share their knowledge with colleagues. They should be able to do academic work at a U.S. university (an advanced level of reading and writing, roughly equivalent to a TOEFL score of 525) and understand technical terms in English relating to computers and the Internet. Candidates should also have regular access to the Internet, be able to navigate in Windows and create a Word document, be familiar with the Internet and web browsers, and be able to type in English well enough to perform on-line tasks in real-time and to submit written assignments in a timely manner.

Teaching English to Young Learners (TEYL)

Offered by the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, English Language Center

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Course Description

This course is designed to introduce participants to the theory and practice of teaching young learners in the EFL classroom. The course will investigate approaches for teaching language within a meaningful context as well as the different techniques for making language input more comprehensible and encouraging student participation. Participants will look at the major principles that govern language teaching based on all of the four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. This 10-week course will be offered in both the fall of 2009 and the spring of 2010.

Requirements

Candidates should be highly motivated teachers, teacher trainers or ministry officials who are both dedicated to their own professional development and willing to share their knowledge with colleagues. They should be able to do academic work at a U.S. university (an advanced level of reading and writing, roughly equivalent to a TOEFL score of 525) and understand technical terms in English relating to computers and the Internet. Candidates should also have regular access to the Internet, be able to navigate in Windows and create a Word document, be familiar with the Internet and web browsers, and be able to type in English well enough to perform on-line tasks in real-time and to submit written assignments in a timely manner.

Building Teaching Skills through the Interactive Web

Offered by the University of Oregon, Linguistics/American English Institute

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Course Description

This course is designed to deepen participants’ understanding of the theory and applied use of CALL (computer assisted language learning) principles in the EFL classroom. This course strives to (1) model innovative online teaching practices, (2) improve understanding of and actively engage in the analysis and systematic adoption of innovative materials and tools for ELT (English Language Teaching), (3) offer opportunities for EFL educators to observe and analyze real-world application of such new materials and practices, (4) provide educators with support and problem-solving mechanisms as they implement new materials and practices in their teaching, and (5) act as a train-the-trainer model so that participants can move forward with concrete dissemination plans. This 10-week course will be offered in the spring of 2010.

Requirements

Candidates should be highly motivated teachers, teacher trainers or ministry officials who are both dedicated to their own professional development and willing to share their knowledge with colleagues. They should be able to do academic work at a U.S. university (an advanced level of reading and writing, roughly equivalent to a TOEFL score of 525) and understand technical terms in English relating to computers and the Internet. Candidates should also have regular access to the Internet, be able to navigate in Windows and create a Word document, be familiar with the Internet and web browsers, and be able to type in English well enough to perform on-line tasks in real-time and to submit written assignments in a timely manner.

English for Specific Purposes (ESP) Best Practices

Offered by the University of Oregon, Linguistics/American English Institute

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Course Description

This course is designed to develop participants’ knowledge, skills and attitudes toward designing, implementing and evaluating ESP (English for Specific Purposes) courses based on best practices in the field. Because the foundation of this course is in best practices, new and experienced ESP practitioners are welcome from all areas of the field. Teachers could be addressing the needs of pre-experience learners (preparing to enter a specific discourse community) who need English for Specific Academic Purposes (ESAP) at

universities, or who need Vocational English for Specific Purposes (VESP) at vocational and technical secondary schools. Other teachers/trainers at private language schools or in university ESP departments may be targeting English for Occupational Purposes (EOP) courses in the business sector, intended for experienced learners already in the workplace who need English as a tool for their job. The course will address the need for training in English for Specific Purposes to promote education and economic development at the local and national levels. This 10-week course will be offered in the spring of 2010.

Requirements

Candidates should be highly motivated teachers, teacher trainers or ministry officials who are both dedicated to their own professional development and willing to share their knowledge with colleagues. They should be able to do academic work at a U.S. university (an advanced level of reading and writing, roughly equivalent to a TOEFL score of 525) and understand technical terms in English relating to computers and the Internet. Candidates should also have regular access to the Internet, be able to navigate in Windows and create a Word document, be familiar with the Internet and web browsers, and be able to type in English well enough to perform on-line tasks in real-time and to submit written assignments in a timely manner.

English as a Foreign Language Assessment

Offered by the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, English Language Center

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Course Description

This course is designed to introduce the participants to the theory and practice of foreign language assessment and testing. Participants will learn about the differences between assessment and testing, and how they can be used to make effective decisions to support teaching and learning. They will learn important concepts to consider when developing assessment and tests, such as validity, reliability, and practicality, as well as different kinds of assessments and tests (formative, summative, diagnostic, proficiency, achievement, product-oriented, process-oriented, alternate assessments). They will develop skills to assess ESL/EFL learner’s performance in all four skill areas and content areas. They will learn to develop test specifications, develop items, analyze and edit items, and put together a final assessment instrument that is reliable, valid, and useful. They will gain experience developing rubrics to assist with grading and scoring and make the assessment process transparent to all stakeholders. This 10-week course will be offered in the spring of 2010.

Requirements

Candidates should be highly motivated teachers, teacher trainers or ministry officials who are both dedicated to their own professional development and willing to share their knowledge with colleagues. They should be able to do academic work at a U.S. university (an advanced level of reading and writing, roughly equivalent to a TOEFL score of 525) and understand technical terms in English relating to computers and the Internet. Candidates should also have regular access to the Internet, be able to navigate in Windows and create a Word document, be familiar with the Internet and web browsers, and be able to type in English well enough to perform on-line tasks in real-time and to submit written assignments in a timely manner.

Methods Course I: Survey of Best Practices in TESOL (Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages)

Offered by the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, English Language Center

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Course Description

This course is designed to provide participants with current methodologies associated with teaching English language learners (ELLs) of different ages in various learning contexts. Participants will discuss and practice a wide variety of strategies and techniques for teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL). While exploring best practices for teaching listening, speaking, reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation, participants will learn how to create an effective and communicative language classroom for all ELLs. In addition, participants will examine what best practices means in the context of teaching English in the 21st century, where English is an international language and how the use of English incorporates modern technologies. This 10-week course will be offered in the spring of 2010.

Requirements

Candidates should be highly motivated teachers, teacher trainers or ministry officials who are both dedicated to their own professional development and willing to share their knowledge with colleagues. They should be able to do academic work at a U.S. university (an advanced level of reading and writing, roughly equivalent to a TOEFL score of 525) and understand technical terms in English relating to computers and the Internet. Candidates should also have regular access to the Internet, be able to navigate in Windows and create a Word document, be familiar with the Internet and web browsers, and be able to type in English well enough to perform on-line tasks in real-time and to submit written assignments in a timely manner.

Methods Course II: Developing EFL Literacy through Project-Based Learning

Offered by the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, English Language Center

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Course Description

Using a „reality TV-style“ modified case studies approach, participants will observe one or more real world language classes at regular intervals over an extended period of time. Video crews will visit pre-selected classes on a weekly basis over the course of a term and capture classroom events as they unfold in a naturalistic „telling-of-stories“ manner. These will be classes which focus on developing ESOL literacy (reading-writing-grammar) using an integrated skills approach and which incorporate aspects of content-based instruction and project-based learning (PBL). Participants will have many opportunities for focused and contrastive analysis of classroom practices in the videos, with ongoing guidance in developing appropriate application of observed techniques in their local EFL teaching environments. New, real-time classroom video footage will be available each week to log, in chronological order, the unfolding drama of these learning events (classroom stories) on the YouTube-UO web site: <http://www.youtube.com/uoregon>. This 10-week course will be offered in the spring of 2010.

Requirements

Candidates should be highly motivated teachers, teacher trainers or ministry officials who are both dedicated to their own professional development and willing to share their knowledge with colleagues. They should be

able to do academic work at a U.S. university (an advanced level of reading and writing, roughly equivalent to a TOEFL score of 525) and understand technical terms in English relating to computers and the Internet. Candidates should also have regular access to the Internet, be able to navigate in Windows and create a Word document, be familiar with the Internet and web browsers, and be able to type in English well enough to perform on-line tasks in real-time and to submit written assignments in a timely manner.

Candidates will be nominated by American embassies and selected in a competitive process. Interested candidates should contact the Regional English Language Officer or Cultural Affairs Officer at the nearest American embassy.