

EDMS 7030
The Middle School
Summer 2008

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COURSE GOALS:

- To promote the concept of a separate organization and program for young adolescents 10-15 years of age, with an emphasis on participants' understanding of the cognitive, moral, physical, emotional, and social developmental characteristics and needs of early adolescents
- To provide participants with the opportunity to examine and evaluate the components of exemplary middle schools with an emphasis on curriculum, assessment, and instruction
- To facilitate participants' understanding of aspects of teaching in the middle school, with an emphasis on the relationships between the nature of early adolescent learners and the design of middle school programs

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Erb, T. O., (ed.). (2005). *This we believe in action*. Columbus, OH: National Middle School Association. [TWB]
- Flowers, F., Mertens, S. B., & Mulhall, P. F. (2007). *Applying current middle grades research to improve classrooms and schools*. Westerville, OH: National Middle School Association. [MGR]
- Selected Readings

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Class Participation/Attendance/Activities	20 points	90-100	A
Group Project	40 points	80-89	B
Individual Project	40 points	70-79	C
TOTAL	100 points	Below 70	F

Class Participation/ Activities: For each class meeting, students are expected to have read assigned materials and completed homework activities. These activities and other conversations will form the basis for class participation. Participation in discussions and activities is crucial in this class. Speak up! We want to know what you think.

Courtesy /Attendance: It is expected that students will show evidence of a sense of responsibility commensurate with being a professional. If you bring a cell phone to class, please **turn the ringer off** during class. As a professional, **courtesy, promptness, and regular attendance** should be the rule. If you are going to be absent, please discuss it with the instructor prior to your absence. Missing more than 30 minutes of a class will be considered an absence. Unless approved, each absence will equate to a deduction of 5 points. Missing more than three classes will result in your being withdrawn from the course and you will receive a grade of WF, unless there is a documented circumstance of genuine hardship (e.g., hospitalization). Absentees are responsible for all materials distributed or discussed. Students will be expected to sign the attendance sheet daily.

Academic Honesty: The University of Georgia's policies on academic honesty in the Graduate Bulletin are strictly enforced in this class. Please familiarize yourself with these policies.

Tentative Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignment
June 5	*Introductions *Review of Syllabus *Timeline of Middle Level Education *Purpose of Schooling	*Burning Question *TWB (pp. 1-10) * <i>The Social Construction of Adolescence</i>
June 6	*The Importance of Middle Level Education (TWB) * <i>The Social Construction of Adolescence</i>	* <i>A Teachers View of Development</i>
June 9	THE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT *Characteristics of Young Adolescents: Cognitive Development * Characteristics of Young Adolescents: Moral Development	* <i>The Role of Pubertal Processes</i>
June 10	* <i>The Role of Pubertal Processes</i> *Characteristics of Young Adolescents: Physical Development	*TWB (pp. 141-172)
June 11	*Characteristics of Young Adolescents: Emotional Development *Characteristics of Young Adolescents: Social Development	*TWB (pp. 11-18) *MGR (pp. 97-106) *Turning Points 2000 (pp. 94-120)
June 12	*THE MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER	*TWB (pp. 63-76, 97-112, 127-140) *Turning Points 2000 (pp. 31-62)
June 13	<i>Burning Question Workday</i>	Burning Question Projects Due Wednesday

Date	Topic	Assignment
June 16	*MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM: Curriculum and Assessment *In the News	*TWB (pp. 113-126, 53-62) *Turning Points 2000 (pp. 63-93)
June 17	*MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM: Instruction	*Decide on Work Groups for the Model Middle School *Prepare for Burning Question Presentation
June 18	Present Burning Question	Presentations Work Groups Meet
June 19	Present Burning Question	Presentations Work Groups Meet
June 20	<i>Model Middle School Workday</i> Model Middle School Group Projects due Monday, June 30	*MGR (pp. 37-78) *TWB (pp. 29-34, 43-52) *Turning Points 2000 (pp. 121-144)
June 23	*MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM: Teaming	*TWB (pp. 77-96) *MGR (pp. 79-96) *Turning Points 2000 (pp. 95-217)
June 24	*MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM: Parents and the Community	* <i>The Challenge of Middle School Equity</i> * <i>Creating Developmentally Responsive Middle Level Schools</i>
June 25	SUMMING IT UP: * <i>The Challenge of Middle School Equity</i> * <i>Creating Developmentally Responsive Middle Level Schools</i>	* <i>Middle Grades Education: Back to the Future</i>
June 26	SUMMING IT UP: * <i>Middle Grades Education: Back to the Future</i>	*Work on Projects
June 27	<i>Model Middle School Workday</i>	Model Middle School Group Projects due Monday
June 30	Model Middle School	Group Presentations
July 1	Model Middle School Course Evaluation	Group Presentations