

Whole Brain Learning

Course Outline

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide teachers with the brain-based tools and understanding necessary to assist students in reaching their full potential for test-taking, increasing overall focus, enhancing reading and math skills, improving general study skill techniques, and building self-confidence in today's classrooms. Teachers will become familiar with the brain's developmental stages and how they affect learning and behavior. Focus will be given to how the body and brain are integrated and students will be introduced to the physical components of learning. Teachers will be presented with specific movements that can assist with balancing the vestibular system in the brain and the knowledge of how these movements can be easily assimilated into the lessons as part of the learning process and the overall school day.

The course will describe in detail the states of learning, stress at school, conscious vs. implicit learning, and how to manage a creative and calm classroom along with the means to incorporate these ideas into everyday routines. The format will also encourage professional development and creative thinking among class members using the resources and prompts provided. This course has been designed for education professionals to rediscover the joy of teaching and for students to rediscover the joy of learning.

The course is set up for the instructors to provide a wide variety of role-play opportunities and modeling for the students to actively experience and be a part of the process of whole-brain learning. The skills to be acquired are specific and target movements that integrate parts of the brain for optimum function and retention, and applications for a series of brain-based learning techniques (i.e. Pulse Learning).

The definition of education has its roots in the Latin word *Educare*, which means "to draw out." A significant portion of this class will be taught involving the Socratic (Inquiry) Method of using questions to create avenues for individual connection to the material, and to set up links for personalized learning, along with co-creative opportunities for students to play out real-life scenarios.

Curriculum Design & Time Requirements

Whole Brain Learning is a 3 credit graduate level or forty-five hour professional development course taught on weekends or over five full days.

Course Materials

Text: *Brain-Based Learning: Teaching the Way Students Really Learn*, Third Edition by Eric Jensen &

Session Outline

Session 1: Basic Structure to Whole Brain Learning

Contents:

1. Introduction/Pre-assessment: Purpose of the course/Goals and objectives of teachers
2. Introduction to brain-based learning
3. Introduction to parts and functions of the Triune Brain
4. Introduction of movements for focus
5. Developmental stages from conception to age 21+
6. The Vestibular System
7. Reflective activities, assignments

Session 2: Right and Left Hemisphere Function

Contents:

1. Review Session I
2. Characteristics of hemispheric dominance
3. How to assess your students hemispheric functionality
4. What hemispheric function means to your classroom
5. How to teach to the whole brain
6. Non-conscious learning
7. Reflective activities, assignments

Session 3: The Physical Component

Contents:

1. Review Session 2
2. The importance of movement
3. Learning is child's play
4. Why every BODY needs water for optimum brain function
5. Chemicals and reactions in the body
6. Reflective activities, assignments

Session 4: Specific Movements, Specific Results

Contents:

1. Review Session 3
2. The genesis of the Movement
3. Movements to enhance spelling
4. Movements to enhance listening abilities
5. Movements that keep the brain alert
6. Reflective activities, assignments

Session 5: The How, When, Why, Where and What of Stress

Contents:

1. Review Session 4
2. The phenomenon of stress/impact of threat
3. The physical components of stress
4. Emotional Stress

5. Academic Stress
6. Coping with stress in the classroom
7. Methods for heading off the stress response
8. Reflective activities, assignments

*This cursory review of stress is expanded upon and covered in an extensive course on stress offered by TEI.

Session 6: Bonding and the Importance of Routines

Contents:

1. Review Session 6
2. Routines in our lives
3. Classroom routines
4. Community bonding
5. Bonding and attachment
6. Bonding rituals
7. Reflective activities, assignments

Session 7: Emotional Intelligence and Discipline

Contents:

1. Review Session 7
2. What is emotional intelligence?
3. Feelings and emotions are not the same
4. Emotions and the learning process
5. Putting emotions into words and gestures
6. Fear and discipline are incompatible
7. Conflict
8. Discipline strategies
9. The journey to self-control
10. Reflective activities, assignments

Session 8: Motivation, Making Meaning and Rewards

Contents:

1. Review Session 7
2. Respect and reframing
3. Motivation and demotivation
4. Learned helplessness
5. Meaning making
6. Motivation and rewards
7. Reflective activities, assignments

Session 9: Lesson Planning

Contents:

1. Review Session 8
2. Brain-based lesson planning part I
3. Brain-based lesson planning part II
4. Mind-brain learning principles
5. Brain metaphor exercise
6. Review for final exam

7. Reflective activities, assignments

Session 10: Final Exam/Evaluation

Contents:

1. Presentation of final projects
2. Final exam
3. Evaluation

Grading

Assignment	Points	Grading Scale
Classroom Participation	30	100 – 93 A
Reading & Reviews	30	92 – 85 B
Final Integration Project	40	
Total Points	100	

Student Requirements

1. Attend all class sessions for the requisite number of hours (45) and actively participate in all class activities.
2. Written reflections and implementation strategies for Sessions 2-8 during the course are required. Each reflection must conform to any accepted style manual. Written reflections will be due as follows:
 - Reflections on Sessions 2 and 3 and on Sessions 4 and 5 at the beginning of Session 6.
 - Reflections on Sessions 6, 7 and 8 at the beginning of Session 9.
3. Students will be provided with 10 readings to review. The responses to the first reading will be due at the beginning of Session 2.
4. During Session 10, students will complete a final exam.

Student Academic Integrity

Participants guarantee that all academic class work is original. Any academic dishonesty or plagiarism (to take ideas, writings, etc. from another and offer them as one's own), is a violation of student academic behavior standards as outlined by our partnering colleges and universities and is subject to academic disciplinary action.